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WEEKLY
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GST INCLUSIVE

★★★ Paul Okon to lead Australia against Scotland Page 3 ★★★

EXCLUSIVE

OCEANIA AND ASIAN CHAMPIONS TO CLASH

Asian confederation executive members approve Champions tournament with Oceania Winners

Johnny Tinsley-Lulu: Brokered the deal.

By Vince Battiato

The Oceania confederation has secured a cross-confederation cup tournament involving the champions of Oceania and the champions of Asia.

Acting OFC president Johnny Tinsley-Lulu of Vanuatu met recently with the executive members of the Asian Confederation who verbally approved the competition between the two confederations.

The competition to be known as the Asia/Pacific Cup is scheduled to begin in 2001 with the champions of Asia to meet the champions of Oceania in a two-leg home and away series to decide the champion.

It is anticipated that from the following season this competition could extend to the top two from each confederation in order to have a four-nation tournament to decide the cup winner.

It is also envisaged that in the coming years the competition will involve both under 17 and under 20 equivalents in order to further the development of youth in the two regions.

Oceania Confederation head of competitions Tai Nicholas was optimistic about the proposed competition:

"It's a great innovation for the regions," he said, "It could well be the catalyst for Oceania club teams to eventually enter or be invited to participate in the Asian club competitions as well."

The Asia/Pacific Cup, already approved by the Asian delegates, is expected to be rubber stamped by Oceania when it meets next in December.

Frank Farina: Possible clash with Asian Champions to come.

VIDUKA'S FOUR GOAL BLITZ PAGES 2, 10 & 23
THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5
CHANNEL 7 SAGA HAVE YOUR SAY PAGE 9
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS-OFF PAGE 15

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GIANNASCA NAMED CAPTAIN

By Graham Cooke

Former Canberra Cosmos and Adelaide Sharks goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca will be using his vast experience to lead from the back during Belconnen Blue Devils' initial campaign in the NSW Premier League.

Giannasca was named captain last week, just three days before the Devils' venture into uncharted territory after 30 years in the ACT Premier League.

It was a late decision and one which Giannasca admitted went to him by default after captain designate Jason Dunn decided to take a job in the United States. However, he declared himself ready and able for the task.

"I have captained my ACT Premiership club, Gungahlin Juventus, forthe past two seasons and I am a natural talker," he said.

"I just have to extend that a little, and maybe take a bigger role off the field. I don't see any problems."

He is no stranger to many of the opponents he will be facing this summer, having made his debut in the old NSW State League in 1987 at the age of 17, and played for Canberra Deakin in the competition for several seasons.

"It's been 10 years since I played there, so I can't really comment on the standard today, but I think we have the players to be very competitive," he said.

"Steve Lazzari and George Cattanach up front, and Oscar Zamora at the back are all from Juventus, and they have the ability and experience to succeed. Leo Langone has been in the NSL for the Cosmos and Newcastle, and young players like Jaime Mauro should really blossom at this level.

"With one or two exceptions, it's almost impossible for players to make the jump from the ACT Premiership into the National League, but we are the stepping stone."

Coach Lino Fiorese said all players with the squad will be deregistered at the end of the season, making them free to return to their ACT clubs for the winter season. "We are in the market to produce results, not to hang on to players and try and make money," he said.

"It's very difficult to say how we will perform at this level, but a mid-table place would be very satisfying."

The Devils' first home again is against Sutherland Sharks at the West Belconnen Sports Ground on Saturday with a 7pm kick off.

TALKING WITH MR ED

Can you believe the amazing performance by our very own Mark Viduka? Four cracking goals against Liverpool was just phenomenal.

What really struck me though was that I made an effort to watch every commercial channels sports bulletins to see whether it would make the news – and boy did it! It is finally good to see exposure for all the right reasons.

Still on Viduka, I was amazed to see the exchanges of words and glances between Viduka and coach David O'Leary. This was not only at the end of the game on the pitch but while the game was still in progress after Viduka had scored number four. Great stuff! The other great thing was Mark saying high to his mum live on camera and stopping his interview with Skysports to say hi to all his family and friends back home. Only an Aussie could get away with that. Well done Mark!

It looks like all the talk over recent years about Oceania getting 'into bed' with Asia is about to come to fruition (see front page). It seems we may well be on a path that will link the two confederations for some time to come.

In the last few years the NSL has seen some interesting imports but seems finally some of these offshore purchases are paying dividends. Dave McPherson (Carlton) and Stuart Young (Wollongong) have been great in recent times and now it seems we have a few more that are doing well. Pelosi and Ligati (Adelaide City) are doing well and the two buys for Parramatta Power this season – David Lee and Joe Miller are on fire early. But full marks have to go to Big Ben Burgess at the Spirit. With parents Keiren and Beryl in the stands at North Sydney oval the youngster bagged Northern spirits first NSL hat-trick all in an amazing 12 minutes. Well done big man.

Channel seven has caused most of us some sleepless nights with their NSL coverage in the wee hours. Now it's your turn to have your say (page 9).

I was disappointed to see that after four rounds the NSL crowds are down. I wonder if the crowds will improve with a 12 team competition next season?

The new summer version of the NSW Premier League kicked off over the weekend. For a full wrap see page 15.

With so much hype during the Olympic Games recently it was hard not to overlook the superb effort by our Paralympic soccer team. Check out our full wrap by ABSW's own Arvind Hickman on page 8.

And finally in world news, spare a thought for the man that now has to put up with the English press (page 24). Will it be the wrath of Eriksson? We shall wait and see.

Ed

VIDUKA'S FOUR-GOAL WARNING TO MILAN

Mark Viduka fired a four-goal warning to AC Milan on over the weekend as the Leeds striker limbered up for next week's crucial Champions League clash at the San Siro.

The tall Australian showed clinical finishing and superb ball skills as he turned around a 2-0 deficit against Liverpool at Elland Road with a brace in each half.

Leeds have been ravaged by injury all season but Viduka, David O'Leary's close-season purchase from Celtic, has made up for it by scoring nine goals in eight league appearances.

Against Liverpool, he could do no wrong.

"It was one of those games where every time I had a sniff at goal it went in," said the man from Melbourne,

whose match statistics read four attempts, four on target, four goals.

"Very rarely do you get those sort of games, but it was good to be part of." Viduka told SkySport he had scored four times in a match before, "but not in this big a game".

"We got off to a pretty bad start. We conceded two goals from set pieces and it was an uphill battle from then.

"But you need a bit of luck in those sorts of situations and I had a couple of chances and put them away. And that gives the confidence back to the team."

Playing down his own contribution, 25-year-old Viduka said it wasn't his best performance in a football match.

"I don't think so," he said. "I've performed better in games but I didn't score this many goals. It's one of those things. I don't think I had an exceptionally good game anyway."

Viduka, voted Scottish premier league Player of the Year in 1999-2000 — his first full season after joining

Celtic in December 1998, has already stamped his mark on the game in Britain.

Mark Viduka: Four goals.

YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE YOUR OPINION ON CHANNEL SEVEN'S NSL HIGHLIGHTS PACKAGE – PAGE 9

BOSNICH OUT FOR SIX WEEKS

The less than friendly relationship between Alex Ferguson and Mark Bosnich has taken another twist with Bosnich looking at a six week lay-off due to a hernia problem.

The current injury is also thought to be the reason why he failed to make the squad for the Worthington Cup clash with Watford, rather than the initial thought that Ferguson had demoted him to fourth choice in the Manchester United line-up.

The hernia complaint will almost certainly require surgery and sideline Bosnich from Australia's upcoming clash with Scotland, a fixture which the keeper was desperate to turn out for.

Bosnich continues to train with United, however it has become widely known that the relationship between Alex Ferguson and Australia's most successful keeper is struggling to endure an enormous amount of strain.

The latest setback for Bosnich will continue to dampen his chances of receiving a call up for the first team, with a return to training not likely until just prior to Christmas.

Mark Bosnich: Hernia problem.

ABSW's new email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
soccerweekly@hotmail.com still available

Okon to Lead Australia

By John Economos

Paul Okon, after being out of action since August 26th with a broken foot, is almost certain to lead Australia into battle against Scotland on Thursday morning next week (Australian time), when the two nations clash at Hampden Park, Glasgow.

Craig Brown: Scotland's national coach.

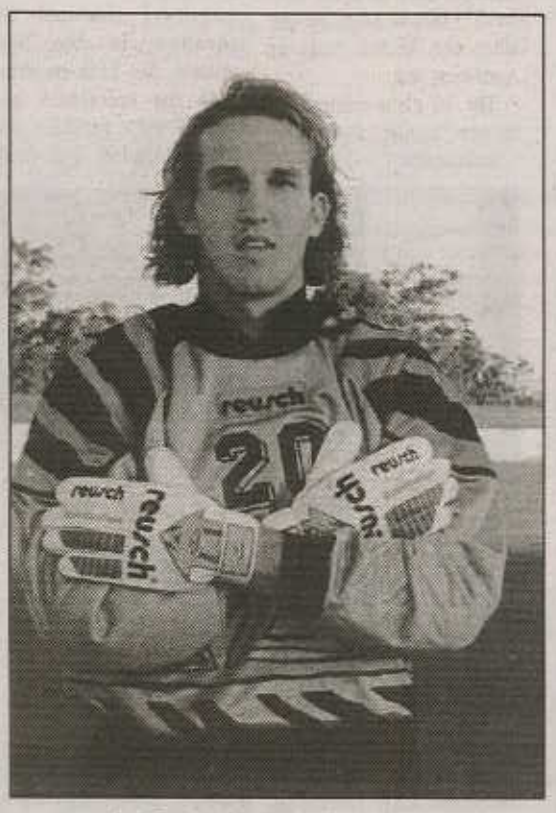
Australia's coach Frank Farina who will fly out to the U.K. this Thursday, is expected to release his squad of 18 sometime this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

When Farina releases his squad today, it will be heavily dominated by Australian Euro-based players.

Farina's squad is certain to include the names of goalkeepers Mark Schwarzer and Zeljko Kalac, Shaun Murphy, Brett Emerton, Okon, Danny Tiatto, Mark Viduka and Paul Agostino.

Brett Emerton

Paul Okon: Australia's captain.



Mark Schwarzer: Australia's goalkepper.

"I suppose after Mark (Viduka) rattled in four goals for Leeds against Liverpool on Saturday, you'd have to give him a gallop," Farina pleasingly and proudly jested about his super-star striker.

Okon suffered a broken foot in Round 3 of the English Premier League whilst playing for Middlesbrough against Leeds United.

The 28-year-old Australian captain however made his comeback last weekend in Middlesbrough's Reserve team and according to reports pulled up well.

Farina stated to ABSW last night: "I still want to do a quick ring-around and double check on a few players before I officially release my squad tomorrow (Tuesday).

"Schwarzer also was carrying an injury for a while but he has assured me last night that he is now okay.

"I hope Paul (Okon) is going to be okay as the Scots are going to be real tough opposition. Scotland is a rising nation lately.

"All you have to do is look at Scotland's recent record where they have won 10 out of their last 17 matches.

"They even went to Croatia and came away with a well deserved 1-1.

"So they'll be tough, real tough, especially at home," Farina underlined.

Farina, (for insurance), has already pencilled in Perth Glory's strong and highly energetic midfielder Kasey Wehrman should Okon drop out unexpectedly.

The Australian coach was forced to by-pass handing out shirts to Mark Bosnich, John Aloisi, Craig Moore and Harry Kewell who are all out of action with injuries.

The reliable and conscientious Super Soccer Channel SBS-TV will bring in a Live coverage of this international fixture at 6.45 am Summer time to the Eastern States on Thursday November 16th. All other States will receive a delayed transmission at 6.45 am (local time).

Frank Farina: Australia's coach.

Paul Agostino: Aerial-power partner with Mark Viduka in the attack.

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GREYSTANES SOCCER CLUB

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TO BE HELD AT

Bathurst Street Park

GREYSTANES

Sunday 12th November — 8.30am
Sunday 19th November — 8.30am
Sunday 26th November — 8.30am
Sunday 3rd December — 8.30am

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Level 111 Qualifications required. Applications close 12th November 2000.

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For further information, please contact:
Mile Smileski on 9786 6540

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All above Training/Trials for Season 2001
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(WINTER COMPETITION)

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Under 18s and 21s 2.30pm to 4.00pm
First Grade 4.00pm to 5.30pm

ENQUIRIES:
First Grade: George Lazarou (coach) Tel: 0414 972 147
Under 18s and 21s: Peter Kittos 0407 407 014 or 9547 3399
Youth League: Soto Mavros 0417 653 979, 9560 8999 or
Mr Tom Gambrellis 9588 1215
Cadet League: John Sopina 0418 970913

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

FRANCIS AWARITEFE, at 36 years of age is still steaming strongly in the goals department.

Francis Awaritefe: Has now scored 120 goals in the NSL.

Two weeks ago the gangling veteran striker cracked a 'brace' against Adelaide City and followed this up at Edensor Park with another to help sink the illustrious Perth Glory 2-1.

Since joining Alan Hunter's Sydney ('the Bravehearts') United this season from Marconi, Big Franny is enjoying a real new lease of life and has now already rattled in three goals.

Awaritefe's overall NSL tally now stands at a hefty 120 goals, the fourth highest in the all-time goalscorers in the League.

The Top Five All-time goalscorers in the NSL are:

Damian Mori (Glory) 149.

Rod Brown (retired) 137.

John Kosmina (retired) 133.

Awaritefe 120.

Marshall Soper (retired) 119.

●●●●

CARLTON's explosively mobile and unorthodox striker Archie Thompson, is fully set to have his best season in the National League this year.

Thompson already has started to be compared to that great crowd-pleaser Manis Lamond, who during the 80s thrilled the fans of the Canberra Arrows and Sydney Croatia.

Last weekend the dazzling striker nailed the target twice against Sydney United to lift his team to a 4-0 victory over Sydney United as well as his tally to five goals and set a cracking pace to now lead the goal-charts in the NSL.

●●●●

PERTH GLORY has changed the date of their clash against Newcastle United to Sunday, December 10th at Perth Oval.

Kick off has been set down for 7 pm.

The reason for the 24 hour shift from the Saturday night is because there will be a 'Christmas Pageant' staged on that evening.

The following Sunday, (Dec 17th), the Glory travels to Melbourne for its clash against Carlton.

Meanwhile last Saturday night, the Glory's intelligent striker Bobby Despotovski, scored a second half penalty to salvage a League point in Perth's 1-1 draw against Sydney Olympic at Perth Oval.

●●●●

THE DRIVER OF THE LITTLE WHITE BARINA, (Rego Number SAM 784), which 'Good Oil' noted in our last issue how it was stuck on the inside lane last Sunday week on busy Canterbury Road, with the traffic refusing it courtesy, or entry to come out, read the article.

(Embarrassed), the driver belatedly phoned 'Good Oil' this week, to thank us for blocking the traffic to allow 'her' Barina to come out.

"Had no idea it was you," Samantha squeaked down the phone line.

No worries Sammy, all part of a day's work in Australian Soccer.

●●●●

SIMON COLOSIMO, Carlton's highly talented goalscoring international defender, is almost certain to be one of the very few domestic-based players to be named tomorrow by national coach Frank Farina, in the Australian squad to play Scotland on Thursday morning, (Australian time), November 16th.

SBS-TV will cover this match Live.

The classy Colosimo again scored last Sunday when he nailed in Carlton's last goal in the Victorians 4-0 drubbing of League leaders Sydney United at the Bob Jane Stadium.

●●●●

THE NSW PREMIER LEAGUE, the new Summer competition which kicked off last weekend will see the 10 teams competing, not only for the League Championship title, but also for $75,000 in prize money when the season ends in April next year.

The 10 clubs comprising the new Premier League, are:

Belconnen (ACT), Blacktown City, Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Canterbury Marrickville, Central Coast, Leichhardt Tigers, Parramatta Eagles, Penrith Panthers, St George and Sutherland.

The NSW Premier League blasted off in fine style last Saturday night when over 5,000 fans turned up at 'Toyota Park' to see Sutherland draw 1-1 with the Parramatta Eagles.

"A most encouraging and pleasing achievement," said NSW President Mr Gray who was at the match.

●●●●

TWO PARRAMATTA POWER 'reject' strikers, Jon Angelucci and Mark Hagger (pre-season trialist), although not wanted by the Sydney Club for this season, were both gratefully snapped up by Canberra Cosmos' coach Tommy Sermanni.

Last Saturday night at the Suncorp Stadium, and with John Kosmina's Brisbane Strikers leading 2-0 with just two minutes left of play, both Angelucci and Hagger miraculously came to Canberra's rescue and paid back Sermanni's faith in them.

First Hagger hit the target in the 89th, then Angelucci slammed the equaliser in the 90th minute, for both to climb onto the scoresheet and steal a very precious and heart-stopping 2-2 draw against the Brisbane Strikers.

Now have a guess who Canberra plays in Sydney this Saturday night?

●●●●

Bobby Despotovski: Perth Glory's ace striker.

Peter Gray: President of the NSW Soccer Federation.

Scott Chipperfield: Wollongong's mobile left flanker.

Brodnik had racked up a massive 36 goals for the Club.

Today 'Chippers' is just two goals short of Brodnik's tally whilst the Wolves' right flanker and skipper is four short of equalling the record after Horsley again rattled the target last Sunday against the Melbourne Knights in Melbourne.

Surely with so many Rounds left in the season, this is one record that will almost certainly be shattered.

●●●●

MICKEY PETERSEN, South Melbourne's former international-playmaker, now new coach, chose to be uncharacteristically a little philosophical last Saturday night at the Marconi Stadium after the match.

Having just witnessed Marconi pull off a late draw, (1-1), against his side, the forever smiling 'Mickey P' lamented:

"Football can represent life sometimes.

"It can be tough and unfair at times.

"In fact football can also cause grief for you," he ended.

●●●●

MARCONI, as it did last Saturday night for the first time during its home match against South Melbourne, (1-1), will be broadcasting all its home games, Live on the Marconi Stallions website.

Mickey Petersen: Philosophical in the end.

The Club is currently in negotiations with Hotlinks to have every Marconi Stallions' game in the current season, (both home as well as away), Live on their site.

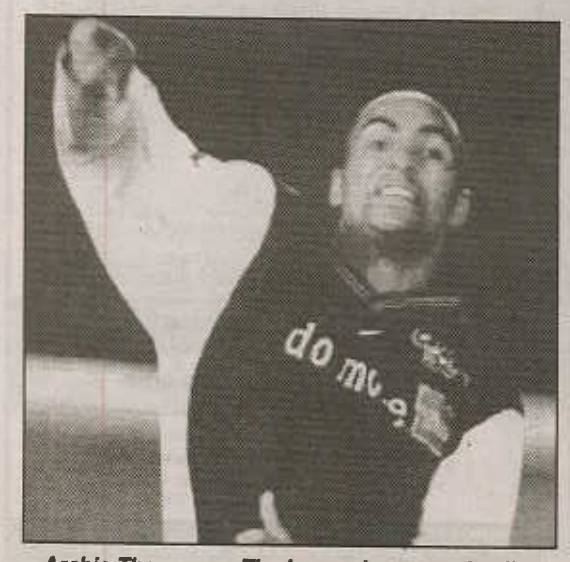
Supporters all they have to do is to login to:

www.marconifc.com and click on the broadcast button to hear the commentary on Marconi, Live each week.

Broadcasting on the internet is the future and Marconi is again showing the way in Australian Soccer.

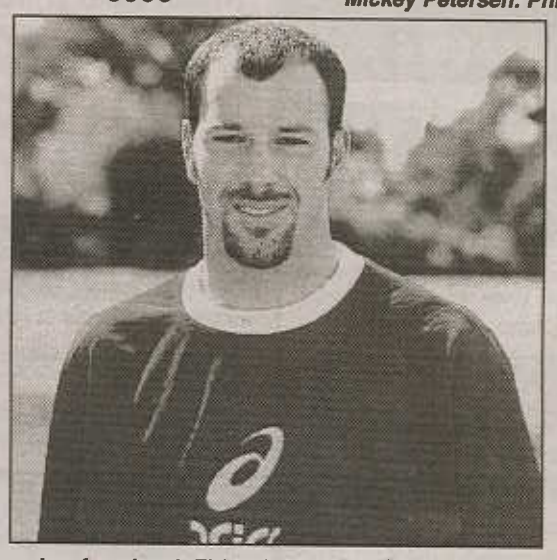
●●●●

PABLO CARDOZO, the former ball-playing striker of Sydney Olympic who during the off season



Archie Thompson: The League's current leading goalscorer.

Simon Colosimo: On the scoresheet again.



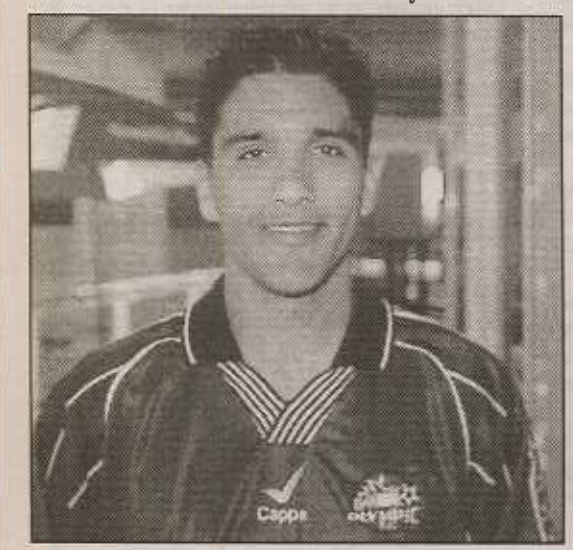
Jon Angelucci: Firing for the Canberra Cosmos.

MATTHEW HORSLEY and SCOTT CHIPPERFIELD, are both revving up their 'motors' to overtake the Wollongong Wolves' all-time goalscoring record that has been held by Pat Brodnik.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

went to play in the Greek First Division with newly promoted team Athinaikos, will be back in Australia next month.

"I want to come back for the Christmas and New Year break to spend with my family," Cardozo stated to 'Good Oil'



Pablo Cardozo: Sydney Olympic's star to return.

"I've only signed with Athinaikos till the end of December and don't know what will happen after that.

"We've only won one game from five Rounds and already our Club has appointed a new coach," Cardozo added last night.

The former Olympic star has only played one match as striker and the rest as a midfielder.

●●●●

A REMINDER, that the Family of the Late Charlie Perkins, (who recently passed away), has expressed its wish to all his friends and Soccer fans, to send their donations, in his memory, to:

"The Charlie Perkins Children's Trust"
G.P.O. Box 4462,
SYDNEY. NSW.

THE BRISBANE STRIKERS last Saturday morning, 'took delivery' of their new Brazilian striker Fernando Rech.

The South American goalscorer from Caxias, Brazil, came highly recommended by Parma F.C.'s Brazilian Technical Director.

The striker has played with Brazilian sides Juventude, Palmeiras and Etti, as well as having a short stint in Japan with J-League side Yokohama Flugells.

The 1.84 cm tall Brazilian, flew into Brisbane from Buenos Aires and coach John Kosmina hopes that his new recruit will form a dynamic link-up with fellow striker Paul Foster.

By John Economos

Paul Foster: Keen to play with his new Brazilian strike-partner.

The Late, Charlie Perkins. Please send donations this week.

The Brazilian after resting, commenced training with the Strikers this week.

●●●●

STILL ON BRISBANE's Brazilian import.

Last weekend when a Soccer official heard about the arrival of Brisbane's new Brazilian striker, he innocently questioned members of the media what was his name?

When said official was informed that the Brazilain was called Fernando Rech, the official jestingly retorted:

"Well he can't be too good if he's a Brazilian and has got TWO names".

Kosmina certainly hopes that this is not the case.

●●●●

WOLLONGONG WOLVES have been drawn into Group A for the Oceania World Club Championship qualifiers that will be contested at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, early next January.

The Wolves will clash with the Champions of Fiji, hosts Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

The tropical climatic conditions plus the bump surfaces which are expected, will not favour Wollongong nor the Champions of New Zealand.

But the Wolves' astute coach Ronnie Corry, (himself a former World Cup goalkeeper), is no fool when it comes to matters concerning international arenas.

Ronnie's vast experience will enable him to dig out solutions to combat these problems.

The top two teams will qualify from each Group for the semis after the first phase of Round Robin matches.

The Finals for FIFA's second World Club Championships will be staged next August in Spain.

Ronnie Corry: Wollongong coach to solve the problems.

●●●●

AS FOR THE MELBOURNE CUP?

'Good Oil' is casting more than a little casual look at 'Pasta Express' who will have Johnny Marshall on board.

Coming out of barrier 16 and quoted at a saucy 33/1, and without mincing words, a buck each way on 'Pasta Express' should not strain the budget.

'Pasta Express'

In fact he could bring the gravy home, leaving hungry backers with a cheesy grin come 3.25 pm.

●●●●

MICHAEL MUSITANO, former Canberra Cosmos striker, signed a six months contract last Sunday with Belgium second division outfit, K.S.V. Roeselare.

Local talent scout Danny Himbrechts, who assisted in placing the 27-year-old former striker from the Riverina, stated to 'Good Oil' last night: "Michael has played three matches for the Club and so highly impressed Roeselare's coaching staff that they signed him up.

Michael Musitano

One official even said to me that there's another club from the first division that's already showing interest in Michael, so he may not be here very long at Roeselare," ended Himbrechts.

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(H) (03) 9889 2260
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The above Club is seeking an experienced Coach for their Premier League & Reserve Grade sides.
Applications close 30th November 2000
Trials for All Age men start 18th January 2001
Glendenning Reserve (Bottom Fields)
Richmond Rd, Glendenning at 7.00pm
PO Box 48 Doonside NSW 2767
Telephone/Fax: 9676 8930

PETERSHAM SOCCER CLUB
NSW STATE LEAGUE
PLAYERS WANTED
TRIALS
Venue: Bark Hutt Res, Belfield (Strathfield)
Time: 6.45pm Thursday 9th November (Starting)
Then each Tuesday & Thursday onwards
Under 18's thru to 1st Grade
Contact for further information
Tony Dunn (Head Coach)
☎ (02) 9204 2742
Manny Camara 0414 622 502
Joe (Secretary) 0419 435 737

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

WHITE HORSE FINAL

Harry Hamshere of suburban Salisbury East struck a nostalgic nerve when he penned the following letter to the Adelaide "Advertiser" last week.

"News of the major renovation of Wembley Stadium brought back memories. A lad of 14, I was taken by an uncle to see the first Wembley Cup final there in 1923 between Bolton and West Ham.

The crowd was so great that, in the crush, walking to the ground my feet barely touched the ground.

The gates were burst open and I can still see in my mind's eye the policeman on the white horse trying to steady the crowd.

The match was played with spectators solid along the touchlines.

One of the moments when I was lifted, I saw David Jack score for Bolton. I cannot remember the score, but I know that Bolton won.

I emigrated to Australia in 1970 with my family. As I will be 92 next month, I doubt anyone else is left who saw that game. Quite a memory eh?" - SP (Harry) Hamshere.

Quite a memory indeed, Harry. We can tell you that Bolton won the first FA Cup final at Wembley in 1923, by 2-0 with David Jack and John Smith the scorers.

Smith's goal was disputed by the West Ham fans who claimed a supporter, positioned on the packed left touchline, used his feet to keep the ball in play for Vizard, who centred to Smith.

With so many people surrounding the pitch it was quite conceivable that this version was true.

The game entered the history books as "The White Horse final" with Billy the horse and his policeman rider, PC George Scorey, the undoubted heroes, who miraculously controlled the estimated 200,000 crowd to enable the final to proceed.

The official attendance was a mere 126,047, but some suggest that 250,000 found their way into the vast bowl.

Incredibly, nobody was killed when, at 2.15pm, the vast crowd broke the barriers. And when the first goal was scored, spectators keeled over like dominoes.

When the events were assessed, the FA reported that: "Arrangements are being made for next year's Challenge Cup Final to be staged on an all-ticket basis." Not suprisingly it has remained that way.

According to our reference source (The book of football's The Sixty Memorable Matches) the 1923 English final ranked highly in sporting history, transcending parochialism, opinion or immediate impact to become national legend.

"For sheer dramatic, myth-making effect it is unlikely that any single occasion has ever compared with the 1923 Cup Final."

SASI PROGRAM HONOURED

The South Australian Sports Institute soccer program has been hailed as the SASI sports program of the year for the second successive season.

Martyn Crook and his team can take a big bow as the budding champions keep rolling off the production line.

Of the current SASI squad, five, Adam Van Dommele, Russell Waller, Fred Agius, Mario Karlovic and Terry Smith, double as Joeys squad members.

Others, Lucas Pantelis, Louis Brain and Aaron Goulding have played NSL with Adelaide City Force this season, while Matthew Milosevic and Iain Fyfe are trialling overseas.

Former SASI captains, Scott Tunbridge and Ivan Karlovic also are Force squad men, while Mimi Saric is out training with Adelaide City.

And, Saric, Andrew Carman, Evan Metanomski and Terry Smith have represented the Australian Institute of Sport team.

Ex-SASI men playing overseas are Mark Graham (Southampton), Sean Widera (Hibernian), Mike Saj Rynes (Opava), Iain Fyfe (Wolves) and Tom Radford (Nottingham Forest).

During the past 12-months, Adam Van Dommele and Russell Waller (Chelsea), Terry Smith and Andrew Carmen (Everton) and Niall Fay (Leeds) have been targets of professional clubs.

Enfield Falcons midfielder Russell Waller was acclaimed SASI Player of The Year (28 votes) from Evan Metanomski (Adelaide City) 24 votes, Fred Agius (Adelaide City) 16 votes and Anthony Joslyn (Modbury) 14 votes.

The Players' Player award went to Seven Taddeo (Metro Stars), the Most Improved to Anthony Joslyn, while Agius was the top scorer with 17 goals.

ALOISI REALISES AMBITION

After serving a six-year overseas "apprenticeship" former Socceroo midfielder Ross Aloisi has realised his ambition to play in Italy.

Ross, elder sibling of Socceroo and Coventry striker John, has left Austrian club Graz to join Italian third division club Alzano.

PICK OF THE PIRATES

Outstanding defender Damien Harley has netted the Port Lion Pirates Best and Fairest trophy for the 2000 Premier League season.

Goalkeeper George Tsonis was runner-up for the Ivan Hudoba prize, with Fraser Keegan and Tsonis dead heating for the Best Team Man award.

Keegan took out the LeHury Player of The Year Trophy, based on referees voting.

Other awards: *Most promising Under 21 Player for the Bob Evans Memorial Medal* — Kieran McFadyen.

Women's Division 3 team: *Best and Fairest* — Gemma Acland, runner-up Mandy Mallon, best team person: Melissa Unglaube. Coaches choice: Maurita Cerracchio.

SOUTH MAN IN LIMBO

South Melbourne attacking midfielder Anthony Magnacca has been left on a limb after his club, South Melbourne and Adelaide City failed to agree on a transfer fee.

City believed that the 22-year-old was a free player, but South has asked for a cash settlement.

Magnacca is back in Melbourne contemplating whether he should seek aid from the Players' Union, or bite the bullet and look for a Victorian Premier League club.

Allan Crisp can be hard on the SRPH (1197AM) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 sports presenter Robbie Popplestone, "Advertiser" soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiato.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Captain Strikes — If ever Matt Horsley scored an important goal it was his winner in the final minutes of the Wolves home game against Marconi at WIN Stadium.

The two Wolves players Scott Chipperfield and Matt Horsley are closing in on the club's all-time scoring record by the enigmatic Pat Brodnik several Years ago with 36 in total, scoring seven goals in one game and the season.

The two are now only two and five respectively behind Brodnik.

■■■■

Crowd Figures or the lack of them is the top of the day. For the Wolves at their new "home" the poor attendance is a disturbing headache for the club. It is a fact now, not reversible this year, that the Wolves play at WIN Stadium. Most of the "true-blue" fans regret the move of the playing venue.

For the team's sake, the hard working club officials, forget your resentments, come along in huge numbers, support the "boys" — it is not their fault.

In due time changes will happen, people are already working on plans to prepare a more suitable home for the Wolves without the disadvantages of the present venue.

Meanwhile, we need to keep the NSL team for Wollongong — the city is big enough to support top league soccer. Please folks come along, even if you don't like the stadium. A recent response from the public points out the early starting time (6.30pm Saturday) affects attendance since many play cricket or touch football on Saturday afternoon — a valued point made and worth looking at.

■■■■

Dedication going too far! Spare a thought for the editor responsible for producing the most impressive Wolves match day programme.

He married on Saturday, the day the Wolves faced Marconi. One would be understanding if "NS" and new Mrs NS miss one home game to enjoy their happy day. No way for this couple, guests were bid farewell early and both attended the game at WIN Stadium, luckily the Wolves won.

Nevertheless one wonders if to admire their engagement to soccer or is that going "overboard"?

Looking at the match day booklet it showed a full page advert of the Illawarra Steelers Club as proud supporters of the Wollongong Wolves, known as the home of rugby league side Saint George Illawarra.

■■■■

Players Movements — The Wolves adopted midfield general Dino Mennillo, taken on by the fans as a class schemer, is thinking of playing overseas one day.

The 25-year-old from Adelaide could miss a possible meeting with the world top clubs if the Wolves should qualify for the World Club Championship next year in Spain, if his agent comes up with an attractive overseas offer.

During the off-season Mennillo had trials in Holland and is keen to play in Europe. His heart is with the Wolves team but his head tells him to look for financial security overseas if possible.

■■■■

New man midfielder Max Nicholson arrived in Wollongong last week from Singapore, recommended by striker Stuart Young. He gained experience in the English lower divisions before joining the S-League in Singapore where he was voted player of the year.

He could turn out a valuable asset for coach Ron Corry. The club is expecting two more experienced players for trials within days, looking at two for the squad to strengthen.

■■■■

Youth Development — always a touchy subject. Glen Fontana has been appointed Director of Youth Coaching in Illawarra and Staff Coach for NSW Soccer Federation. His portfolio includes the development of young players from ages 8 to 16.

Looking after players in the Illawarra area. At present Fontana coaches the NSW U/15's which won the National title this year. Wolves youngster Jay Lucas was a member of this squad and is one of three players under Fontana, being offered contracts in the English Premier League.

■■■■

Illawarra Soccer — Shellharbour Workers Club (around 21,000 members) is a strong supporter of community sports organisations like Surf club, Swimming Club, Cricket Club and Football clubs.

Local First Division club Shellharbour City is very much encouraged by the sponsorship from the "Workers".

A solid basis is now available for the club and coach Rodney Haggerty to develop the facilities. Feelers are out to assemble a firm squad of players. Experienced and young talented players are invited to join for the new season. Pre-season training is planned next to the Workers club on the new field Flinders Reserve, for Thursday 16th November from 5pm.

Come along and get to know the coach, his views his techniques, learn about his plans and ambitions as well give him a chance to know you.

Obviously he is contacting a couple of well established players but likes to work more with committed youngsters. Prospects on and off the field for Shellharbour City are looking good.

Join a club with ambitions and solid backing. The coach is hoping for 50 to 60 interested players to turn up, curious to view the new set-up.

■■■■

Midweek Amateur Soccer Association (BHP Interworks) — The All Nationality Cup played recently recorded following results: Chile 3 Scotland 0, Internationals 3 Croatia 0, Croatia 6 Chile 1, Scotland 3 Chile 0 and in the final Internationals 2 Croatia 0, crowned as Premier and Grand final winners. All games played at Centenary Fields, Cringila.

For the first time ever the Wolves went live around the world on the internet with a live broadcast of their match against the Knights.

WOLVES WEBSITE IS:
www.wollongongwolves.com.au

Miyazawa expected to settle quickly

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni expects his new signing, 29-year-old central defender Hiroshi Miyazawa, to settle quickly to life in Australia.

"He has been here before, he is familiar with the country, and I feel he has the personality to fit in well at the Cosmos," he said of the Sanfrecce Hiroshima J-League player, who arrived at the Cosmos on a three-month loan a week ago.

And while the latest addition flew into Canberra just 48 hours after a reshuffled Canberra Cosmos had played their best football of the season in the 3-0 win over Melbourne Knights, Sermanni said Miyazawa remained crucial to his plans.

"I'm not getting carried away by that one result," the coach said.

"We played well, but there were still areas of deficiency where I know Hiroshi can help."

The two know each other well, having been together when Sermanni was assistant coach at Hiroshima. In recent times Miyazawa has been dogged by injury and has lost his place in the starting line-up.

The stint at the Cosmos, where he is guaranteed first-team football, will have the initial effect of returning him to match fitness during the off-season in Japan. The crucial point comes at the end of January when his Japanese contract expires and Hiroshima must decide whether to offer him another.

Depending on what happens, he could either return to Japan, where he will probably have two or three more seasons at the top level, or seek the lesser rewards, but possibly longer career, of Australia.

Meanwhile, Sermanni is luxuriating in the added flexibility of having a youth team.

Already one member of the youth squad, striker Dominiq LaButte, has got a taste of the NSL, coming on 13 minutes from the end of the game with Melbourne Knights.

Which represents exceptional progress for a youngster who could not count on a regular place with Belconnen United's ACT Premiership side during the winter.

However his coach at Belconnen, Lino Fiorese, said LaButte had been dogged by injury and had seemed uncomfortable playing alongside older and more experienced players.

"I think getting into the Cosmos youth squad, where he is surrounded by players of his own age, has done him the world of good and helped him to settle down," Fiorese said.

"He is very patient on the ball and is prepared to put his body on the line in tough situations. I expect he will get stronger and develop his game sense as he plays more this summer.

"I'd love to have him with me at Belconnen, but I've a feeling the Cosmos know they've got a good player and will hang on to him."

Restoring Gippsland's Dented Pride

By Bert van Bedaf

Not a stone has been left unturned to unearth the secret that may lift Gippsland's national league club Eastern Pride to greater heights.

But so far, the struggling Morwell club is occupying fathomless depths of despair and facing the valley of death.

So much so that after Pride's 2-0 home loss to Northern Spirit in round 2, chief executive and a club director Peter Quirk threatened to sack the squad.

"We'll go out and get another 17 players. We won't tolerate the lack of heart and guts and endeavour. I don't expect another performance like that this season," he seethed after the match, smarting over the club's severely dented pride.

In that humuliated side were such senior players as defender Dean Fak, new signing Kim Dong-Ki (from Adelaide), Ante Deak (ex-Melbourne Knights), captain Clayton Bell, fancied English signing Neville Roach and striker Juan Nilo.

Last Friday in round four of NSL matches, Pride lost 4-3 to Adelaide City Force, putting more pressure on the club's future.

It was Adelaide's first win and first points for the season following three losses. It lifted the Force to third bottom, leaving Pride second bottom, sharing a point with motherless last Newcastle United. It is the exact spot, where Pride, then called Gippsland Falcons, finished last season, prompting a complete club overhaul, including a name change.

Pride claimed its first point at home in the opening round, drawing 1-1 with Newcastle. It lost 2-1 to New Zealand's Football Kingz in round two and is still looking for its first victory.

Jeff Hopkins: "It's still early days."

Without putting too much doom and gloom on Pride's fortunes, it is hard to see a win coming from its home match against Perth Glory on Saturday night.

Losing grand finalist, Perth drew the grand final replay 1-1 with Wollongong in round one. It beat former back-to-back titleholder South Melbourne 1-0 at home, lost dramatically to surprise leader Sydney United 2-1 and drew 1-1 at home with Sydney Olympic last Saturday.

Pride coach Jeff Hopkins believes the team can regain form and the recipe is hard work.

"We've had a number of team meetings. The lads know what they'll need to do. They'll have to be more competitive, be first to the ball, factors that go hand in hand with being a successful team," Hopkins said.

Despite the slump, Hopkins said the mood was still positive, "It's still early days in terms of the competition. We believe we can reverse our form and be a competitive team for the rest of the season," he said.

Success on the field, as much as an excellent off-field performance, will determine whether Eastern Pride will be part of a reduced 12-club league (from a current 16) next season.

"We realise it's going to be difficult, but we're doing everything possible to make sure we stay in the league. We have made changes to the administration, but the key is to improve on the field. We need to get that right," Hopkins said.

To improve its playing strength, Pride has welcomed the return of former player Stan Webster as youth coach. Webster has signed a three-year contract.

In 1984 he won the Victorian Premier League (then State League) title with the then Morwell Falcons and has coached the Cranbourne Comets in division two of Victoria's State League.

"It's great to come back to the club, where I have such fond memories.

I'm looking forward to developing talented young players for the club.

These are exciting times and it's great to be part of a national league club," Webster said.

Webster coached in the exact area from which Pride wants to draw greater support. Its recent home matches have drawn small crowds of between 1500 and 1600 spectators, which is well below Soccer Australia's wishes.

Therefore the club has launched a bus service to ferry supporters to its home matches. This way it hopes to lure more patrons to its boutique stadium, which offers a licenced gaming club with a relaxed country atmosphere.

Buses from surrounding outer-Melbourne suburbs Narre Warren, Berwick, Hallam, Frankston and Pakenham will transport supporters to and from Morwell, at a cost of $30, which includes a meal, match ticket and a $5 drinks voucher.

Children under 16 will be able to travel half price and youngsters under 10 will travel free. Family passes and concessions are also available.

To co-ordinate and promote Pride's initiative, the club has appointed Andy McLean as its eastern suburbs representative.

"It will be my responsibility to attract people from Melbourne's eastern suburbs to Pride's home matches. Hopefully, with initiatives such as the bus service, we'll be able to attract more people to come to Morwell," McLean said.

Pride is also taking its players into the Victorian countryside, holding free clinics. The team, including its star signing Roach, recently visited the country town of Sale, where it held a clinic at Sale City.

About 40 youngsters between four and 14, turned up to train with the players and hopefully having met the team, they'll be keen to watch them play at Morwell as well.

"We believe there's plenty of supporters in the outer suburban and country regions, but it's a matter of getting them down here. Once they're here, I'm sure they'll enjoy the game and they'll be well looked after," McLean said.

Hopkins is also enthusiastic about the bus service. "There's nothing worse than playing in a half empty stadium and the more people we get, the more intimidating it will be for opposing teams," he said.

All clubs know how intimidating it is to play away to Perth Glory, one of the best supported teams in the league. But it would need a lot of buses to get 15,000 people to Pride's Mobil Park on Saturday — although there's no harm in trying and dreaming is part of succeeding.

HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS
PLAYERS WANTED
Cadet (U11's and U12's) 1st Division
Youth (U13, U14, U15, U16) 2nd Division
Trials every Wedneday
at Beverly Hills Park, 6.30pm
Vanessa St, Beverly Hills
Enquiries: Mr Peter Sarikakis
0412 407 830

COLE STAYS WITH GREENS

By Bert van Bedaf

Last season's Victorian Premier League runner-up Bentleigh Greens has re-appointed Gary Cole as coach for next season.

Cole is still smarting from finishing only a point behind back-to-back title winner Green Gully. "If we'd had more striking power, I believe, we could've won the title," Cole said. He won VPL premierships with Altona Magic in 1996 and Bulleen in 1998.

Cole succeeded Harry Chalkitis, who was sacked by former president Melissa Fischer-Massa. Victoria's mercurial soccer president has re-joined Altona Magic as president. Magic president Tony Toderovski stepped down after two years at the helm to spend more time with his family.

Meanwhile, the Melbourne Raiders have compiled a shortlist of at least three coaches to succeed Chris Taylor and Frank McGrellis who were in charge at Epping last season.

Taylor was appointed for the season, but underwent hip surgery and McGrellis stepped in for the latter part of the season.

The Raiders relegated to State League division one and are regrouping to make an immediate return to the Victorian Premier League.

A.C.S.S.A.Inc.
Associations Incorporation
No A0011909N

They have short-listed Bogdan Bonk, Peter Tsolakis and Ivan Duzel as possible coaches for next season.

Bonk previously coached North Geelong and Bulleen in the VPL and Pascoe Vale in State League division 3 last season.

Taylor has signed as coach with VPL club Altona East for next season.

The Phoenix lost its coach Peter Ollerton, who signed for Heidelberg several weeks ago.

Last season Tsolakis was player-coach at Port Melbourne, where Chalkitis has taken up as coach.

A former Melbourne Knights player, Duzel still plays for Fawkner and like Tsolakis would be a player-coach for the Raiders.

McGrellis is on the short-list to be appointed coach of Altona Magic.

McGrellis met with the Magic the week before last.

The Raiders have appointed club stalwart Mauro Raponi as team manager. A former goalkeeper and coach at the club, Raponi takes over from Ross Follacchio, who has stepped down after six years in the position.

Follacchio is vice-president and presently acting president, while president Joe Caruso is recovering from a heart attack.

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Saturday 11/11/00, Saturday 18/11/00, Saturday 25/11/00
Youth League U/15s – 2pm, U16s – 3pm
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PLAYERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED FOR 1ST GRADE, UNDER 21s & UNDER 18s
Trials every Tuesday & Thursday at Rockdale Ilinden Sport Centre
If you are interested in playing for an ambitious, successful club please contact the Club Secretary Mendo Ckiamovski on 9567 5067

Paralympic Games

✦ By Arvind Hickman

Press Information Specialist for Football, Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games

The Brazilian team celebrating their bronze medal victory with Mascot Lizzy.

The Paralympic football tournament culminated in a thrilling final with Russia eventually defeating arch rivals Ukraine to turn their Atlanta silver medal into Sydney gold.

The tournament featured the top eight Cerebral Palsy soccer (CP-Soccer) nations from around the world and ran for five grueling days.

The competition was split into two groups with World Champions Ukraine, Portugal, Paralympic Champions the Netherlands and Argentina in pool A.

While hosts Australia, Brazil, Russia and Spain battled out pool B.

After the preliminary rounds, Ukraine and Russia advanced to the semi-finals winning their respective groups, alongside runners-up Brazil and Portugal.

The semi-finals placed Ukraine against Brazil and was one of the games of the tournament.

With scores tied 1-1 at full time it took some Volodymyr Kabanov (CP8) magic late in the first period of extra-time to send Ukraine into their first Paralympic final.

Russia did it a lot easier against Portugal winning 3-1 with Mamuka Dzimistarishvili (CP8) scoring twice.

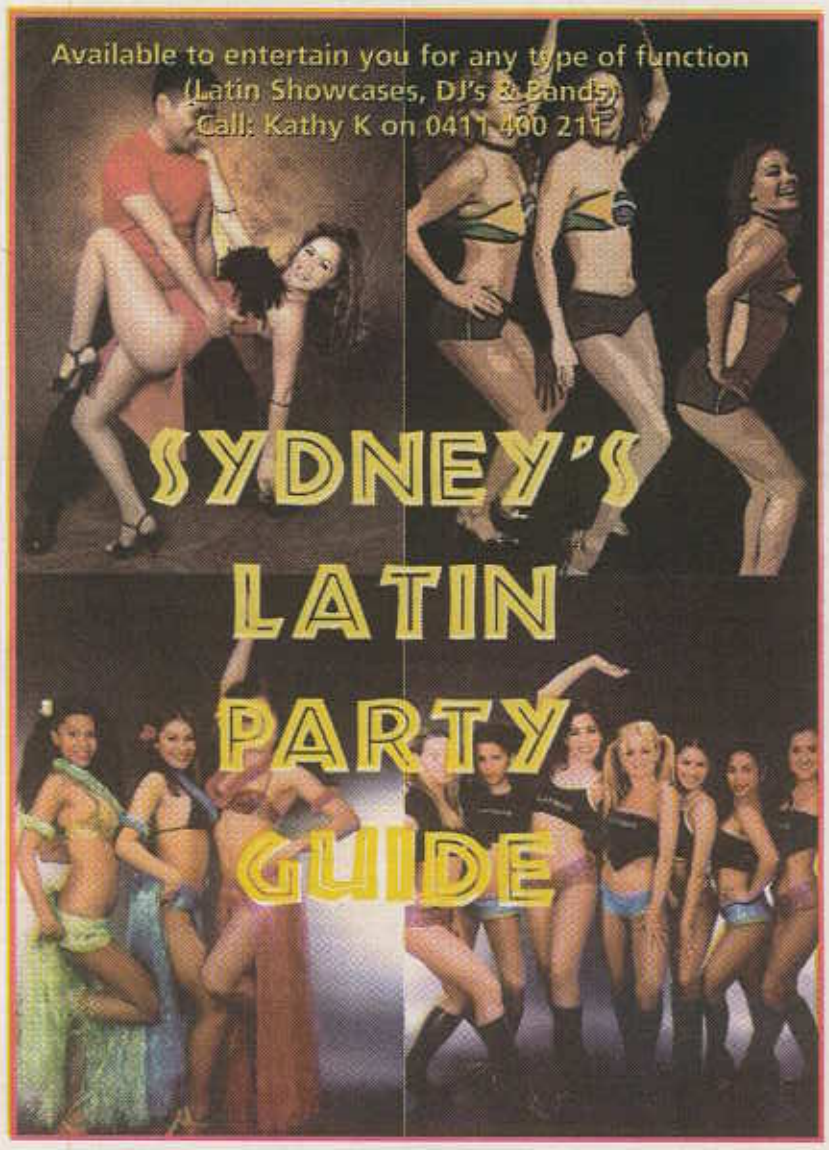
The final was played in front of a packed house at the State Hockey Centre, a feat never seen before in the sport.

Russia took the early lead via the penalty spot before Ukraine hit back twice to lead 2-1 at half time.

Enter the Mamuka DzimiSTARishvili show, turning Ukraine inside out with the best solo performance of the tournament. Dzimistarishvili scored twice in the second half to cap of his hat trick and hand Russia their first gold medal in Paralympic football.

Brazil claimed the bronze medal after an impressive 2-1 victory over Portugal, lead by star striker Luciano Rocha who scored twice.

The minor placings resulted in Argentina coming fifth after their 5-2 rout of Spain, and Australia winning their first game of the tournament to come seventh, relegating defending Paralympic Champions, the Netherlands to last.



Young guns end with a blast

The Australian CP-Soccer team finished a very credible seventh in the competition, defeating three-time gold medallists the Netherlands 2-1 on the way.

It is a team that was developed from scratch after Atlanta in 1996 by head coach and pioneer Russell Marriott.

"It is the first time an Australian side has ever been put together for Cerebral Palsy soccer in the world," he said.

"The average age of that team is 19, so they're a very young side and looking at the competition, the way they performed and talking to other people they've got a very, very big future."

This was the first major international competition for the team, having only played in two previous competitions since late 1999.

Their improvement has been nothing short of remarkable since their last tournament where Russia, who train twice a day and once a month with their national able bodied squad, defeated Australia 6-0.

At the Paralympics, Australia could have beaten Spain, hitting the posts twice and matched the eventual gold medallists Russia for a majority of their game before losing 3-0.

The victory over the Netherlands, with goals from Jason Rand CP8 and Chris Pyne CP7, really consolidated Australiaís emergence on the world stage.

The Aussies certainly surprised a few and will now look towards the future with confidence.

"They exceeded expectations and overwhelmed quite a few people. They did better than a lot of people would have thought but to be honest with you I think they could have gone one or two better.

"I think we've managed to tell the people of Australia that you may have a disability, but that does not hold you back from competing in sport or any pursuit you wish to take up."

ABSW would like to congratulate Beau Menzies, Shaun Fedele, Jeremy Thorpe, George Tonna, Jason Rand, Chris Pyne, David Barber (C), Andrew Panazzolo, Miguel Marcelino, Eric Haddrick, Mark Morris and all of the coaching staff for their sterling performance at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. We wish you the best of luck for the future.

ABSW's Arvind Hickman (right) with Brazilian bronze medal match hero Luciano Rocha.

Action from the final between Russia and Ukraine.

The Low Down on CP Soccer

✦ CP Soccer is open to athletes with the disability of Cerebral Palsy between the range of CP5 — CP8. A team must have the lower functional ability of a CP5 or CP6 player on the field at all times.

✦ CP soccer is a seven-a-side game, played on a hockey sized field with proportionately sized goals and field markings.

✦ The game duration is 60 minutes (2 x 30 halves), with extra-time periods of 10 minutes if needed.

✦ CP Soccer is governed by the Cerebral Palsy International Sports & Recreation Association (CP-ISRA) but played according to FIFA rules with minor modifications. These modifications include no offside, back passes to the goalkeeper and throw-ins may be rolled in.

PAIN PERSISTS FOR FANS IN TV LAND

Channel Seven's soccer coverage continues to be a joke and fans across the nation are angry, writes Victorian editor, Bert van Bedaf.

Soccer Australia continues to put on a brave face while criticism mounts over its monumental blunder to hand Channel Seven rights to broadcast the sport, covering international matches and national league games. But for keen fans pain persists and there's no way they can go and see a doctor.

Thus far, there's no cure called getting a fair go.

Soccer Australia has indicated it has ruled out throwing the 10-year agreement with Seven into the fire and starting afresh. But it has said "talks are ongoing to improve NSL coverage".

Ian Knopp: "Judas Money."

Meanwhile, the code has been banished to the small hours, when young fans are in bed and working people are most likely also tucked under the blankets as Seven's national league highlights package goes to air at ten past midnight on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning.

Then there's Seven's C7 cable television coverage. It is only accessible to those who can afford the subscription and live in the right area to watch match of the day. Not everybody can get C7 reception. Only free-to-air broadcasting can give nationwide coverage.

NSL deputy chairman Ian Knopp, appearing on SBS, described the 10-year contract, worth $20 million and in its third year, as "Judas money".

"It is time we started making public comments and put pressure on Channel Seven. It is obvious we've chosen the wrong free-to-air vehicle," Knopp boldly declared.

It was Soccer Australia, under its then chairman David Hill, who did the wrong deal in 1998 and the sport has been suffering ever since. A better bet would have been Channel Ten, which not only attracts a younger audience, but also isn't tied to AFL's Australian Rules. But nobody seemed to have thought about these things at the time three years ago.

Melbourne's most outspoken exponent against the Seven travesty is Con Monteleone, the convenor of the "Seven Screws Soccer" website and campaign.

A Melbourne Raiders supporter in Epping, Monteleone is also a Carlton fan and recently at South Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium, the new "home" of the Blues, Monteleone handed an anti-Seven sticker to C7 commentator Greg Blake. "Blakey" politely returned the sticker to him for obvious reasons. But "Monty" had made his point.

"Who's watching soccer at Seven at midnight? It's a joke," he said and he was right.

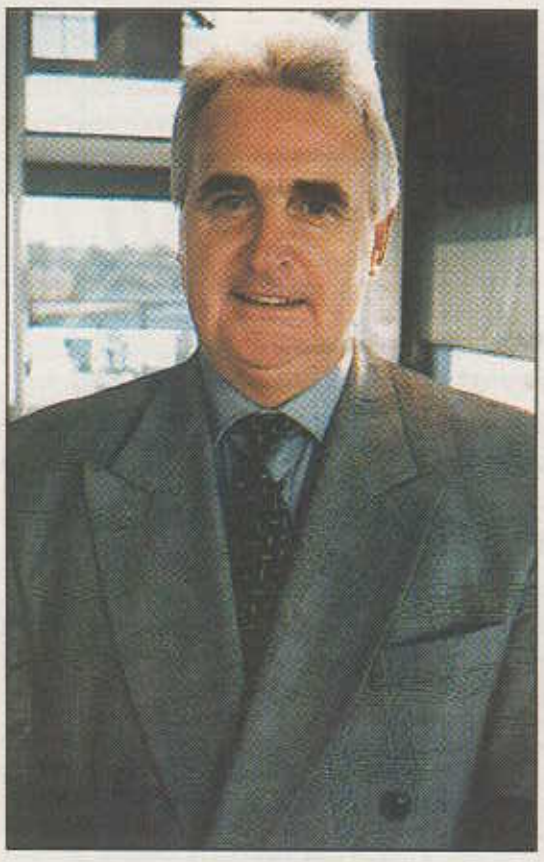
Fans across the nation are outraged. A Sydney fan wrote. "When will Australian commercial TV begin to take the world game seriously? Channel Seven is now showing the hour-long package of NSL highlights after midnight. Thank goodness for VCRs."

And another in Adelaide. "What an insult by Channel Seven towards soccer fans to show NSL highlights at midnight. Who is going to stay up that late?"

And another Sydney fan asked, "Why did Channel Seven bother to purchase the rights off Soccer Australia when they show the highlights package at midnight on Tuesdays?"

NSL manager Stefan Kamasz revealed he'd been inundated with complaints from irate fans, but he limply deflected the heartfelt sentiments.

"We've been hoping the (midnight) program would be replayed on Saturday afternoons. But that hasn't occurred as yet. It (soccer) is an untested product. You can't expect them (Seven) to take risks before 10.30pm. If people were to put enough pressure on Seven, something might happen about it," he said.



Stefan Kamasz: Inundated with complaints.

The facts are running against him. People are (and have been) complaining loudly and long enough. They have kicked up enough dust to blind a bull in a rodeo. It's Soccer Australia that's putting its head in the sand. And most likely it's a legal bind that continues to choke soccer coverage in a bad deal.

ATTENTION: SHANE WOOD (Channel Seven)
FAX NO: (02) 9967 7940

I, _____ (name), of _____(state), wish to show my disgust at the continual lack of respect shown to Australian football — Soccer.

The screening of an NSL package of highlights in the early hours of Wednesday mornings shows the Soccer fraternity exactly what you really think of them.

As a fan of the game I ask you to show us all a little more respect.

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Signed: _____

Detach and fax to the above number to show your disgust at Channel Seven's treatment of the NSL.

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Letters to the Editor

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

Dear Sir,

I would like to compliment your paper on your line-up and match detail section at the back of your paper.

Last year the Brisbane Strikers were undefeated after nine rounds and not one of their players were amongst the leaders in your ABSW Player of the Year poll. (Clint Bolton, Paul Foster and Bunders!)

Peter Grierson was awarded two points in the first match of the season against Melbourne Knights. Peter was also awarded one point for the Newcastle game a total of three points.

How come he didn't make your progressive table after two rounds? Please explain?

Hopefully this is not the same old Southern bias that the strikers encounter each year!

Go strikers we want a top six finish this season and get the credit we deserve.

Glenn Orr,
Bilambil Hts. NSW.

An oversight at most Glenn. We apologise. As far as the southern bias is concerned, that is usually directed to a different football code. – Ed.

ARE WE ON OR OFF?

Dear Sir,

How much longer must the game of soccer be hamstrung by the antiquated OFF SIDE rule, which in the game today seriously restricts scoring chances and retards the natural flow of the game.

Recently I witnessed another game where the "OFF SIDE TRAP" was "successfully" used ruining what could have been a great spectacle and left many potential new fans puzzled at these obstructions to the flow of play when the rules were zealously adhered to by linesman. I believe that the most perplexing of rules to devotees and potential devotees of this great game is the OFF SIDE rule.

Other football codes, not to mention other team games, would never tolerate such a scoring restrictive rule. Even ultra — conservative Rugby Union officials are altering ancient rules to enhance continuity and make it more spectator friendly.

A line across the field at, say, the 18 yard box or even the six yard box is my humble suggestion but surely there are more.

Maybe it could result in an attacking player waiting on the edge of this OFF SIDE perimeter but it would require a defending player being with him. That simply opens the game up, creating more attractive football plus more scoring chances.

Today, thankfully, soccer is still the "world game" but it must compete with other team sports. We can't just sit back and assume that the original rules of the code were so perfect they would never require alteration of modification. I believe the time is now.

Why not give it a season trial in the NSL? Who knows the rest of the world might follow — innovation doesn't always have to come from the USA. World hockey has already adjusted its offside rule to great success, creating a faster, more exciting game with more goals.

John Niddrie,
Charlestown. NSW.

Interesting suggestion John. Who knows? Maybe FIFA might find an alternative to the dreaded penalty shoot-outs as well. Only time will tell. – Ed.

GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Dear Sir,

I read with interest you article "Battle Plans" — especially four statements in the article. The first was that the league will include a minimum number of clubs (one each) from Queensland, South Australia, ACT, Northern New South Wales, and New Zealand. The second was the statement that the other six clubs would come from nine Sydney and Melbourne clubs.

The third was that by inference clubs under the gun would seem to be Newcastle, Eastern Pride, Carlton and Sydney United.

These three statements create two puzzles. First, there is the missing club: six plus nine leaves one missing. If, clearly, the reference to "Sydney and Melbourne" clubs means, in fact, NSWSF and VSF clubs, then the missing club would be Wollongong.

However, the most puzzling is the notion that the plan described put Newastle under particular pressure. It would seem, from the description of the plan, that the pressure for spots would be among clubs from the big federations of New South Wales and Victoria, and that a club like Newcastle from a smaller federation like Northern New South Wales would be placed at an advantage by the plan.

Does the author labour under the mistaken impression that Newcastle lies within the boundaries of the federation centered on Sydney? I can assure him that in the peculiar geography of Australian Soccer, New South Wales stops at Swansea, and that the area from the cities of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle on north to the Queensland border is the very same Northern New South Wales that seems to be one of the beneficiaries of the "geographical distribution" element of the plan.

The final puzzling statement was the description of Con Constantine reinventing the Breakers as United and saving them from receivership.

Oddly enough, in this last week's paper, a quote from the administrator for Newcastle Breaker's FC P/L indicated that he thought it was likely to be liquidiated. Meanwhile, the parent company, Newcastle Breakers P/L, continues to operate at their home ground while the new club founded by Con Constantine plays 10 minutes across town.

The puzzle is how you managed to use so few words and get so many individual points wrong. Con Constantine may well have saved the NSL license for Newcastle, and kept essentially the same team that played last year, but he did so by founding a new club, not by rescuing the previous one.

Bruce McFarling,
Shortland, NSW

Opinions are always welcomed here at ABSW. I will pass this on to Bert van Bedaf who can reply to you next week. – Ed.

WORTHY TRIBUTES

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Soccer Canberra, please accept our thanks and congratulations for the tributes that you published to Charlie Perkins in the 24th October edition of ABSW.

Particularly we commend the articles written by John Warren and John Economos. Both writers produced heartfelt and worthy tributes befitting a man with Charlie's stature.

In Canberra, we are particularly grateful that we were able to have had Charlie contribute to soccer locally in a variety of roles including as president of the ACT Soccer Federation (now Soccer Canberra) and Canberra's NSL team, Canberra City. We were therefore very pleased to see the recognition he deserved for his contribution to soccer through the media including your publication.

Keep up the good work and thank you again.

Robert Bennett
Chief Executive
Soccer Canberra

Mr. Bennett, ABSW thanks you for your kind words. We like to believe we give credit where it is due and Mr. Perkins certainly deserved that at the very least. His contribution to our game was loyal, passionate and tireless.

He will be missed by all. – Ed.

Late Charlie Perkins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Postal Addressed to:
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475 or
E-mail:
soccerweekly@hotmail.com
or
Fax: 9550 9332 • 9564 1224

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

With Arvind Hickman ***Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition Aussie Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.***

Mark Viduka has taken all of the limelight this week with his stunning four goal display against the mighty Liverpool.

Leeds were two goals down and looked heading for defeat before the V-bomber got his team back in the game.

He then equalised at 3-3 in the 73rd minute before scoring the dramatic winner two minutes later.

Watford's Richard Johnson is on the recovery trail from knee surgery, he is yet to make an appearance this season.

Premier League: Other Aussies that featured in the Premier League over the weekend were Danny Tiatto in Manchester City's 1-0 loss to Leicester, and Jacob Burns who played a full game for Leeds.

New Zealand international and former NSL player, Danny Hay, also saw some action when he came on for Leeds as a substitute.

Germany: Paul Agostino scored 1860 Munich's only goal in a 1-1 draw with VfL Bochum. Ned Zelic also played a full game.

Last Week:

Mark Viduka: Player of the week with a four-goal haul.

England-Lower Divisions: A number of Aussies scored in last week's games.

Kevin Muscat scored two goals in two games for Wolves, Shaun Murphy scored the winner as Sheffield United beat Stockport and Jason Van Blerk was on target for WBA.

Danny Invincibile also scored twice for Swindon Town before being replaced by fellow Aussie Mark Robertson.

Belgium: Joe Spiteri, coming back from injury, came off the bench in the 46th minute, and picked up a yellow card as Lierse lost 4-1 at home to Moeskroen.

Josip Skoko played a full match, as Racing Genk drew 1-1 at home with AA Gent.

Holland: Brett Emerton was replaced in the 90th minute, while National teammate Stephen Laybutt remained on the bench, as Feyenoord drew 1-1 away to Utrecht.

Socceroo Zeljko Kalac (gk) remained on the bench, as Roda JC lost 1-0 at home to RKC Waalwijk.

Greece: Bill Damianos was replaced in the 60th minute, as Xanthi drew 0-0 away to Panionios.

Italy-Serie B: Olympian Marco Bresciano played a full match, as Empoli beat Ravenna 3-2 at home. Olympian Vince Grella remained on the bench, as Ternana drew 0-0 at home with Salernitana.

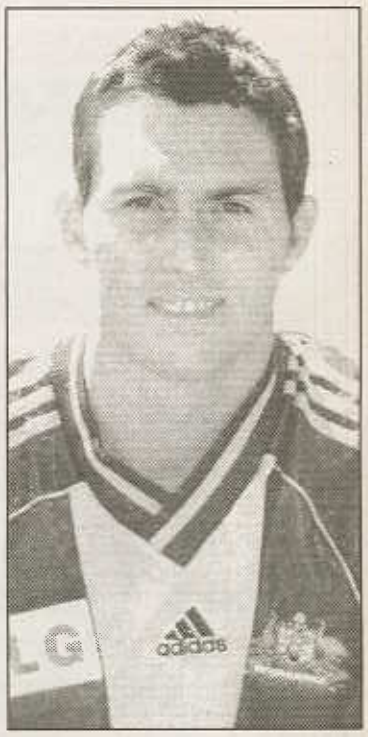
Sweden: Socceroo Luke Casserly played a full game, as AIK Solna drew 2-2 away to BK Hacken, in the second last round of the Swedish season.

Switzerland: Ivan Ergic came off the bench in the 59th minute, as FC Basel beat Yverdon 2-1 away from home.

Congatulations: First time parents, Mark and Lucia Robertson on the birth of their daughter Taylor. Happy Birthday to Shaun Murphy who celebrated his 30th on November 5th.

Player of the Week: Being a Liverpool supporter, it is with great pain that I applaud Mark Viduka's four goal haul as perhaps the finest individual performance by an Australian overseas in recent times.

Seemingly down and out, Viduka inspired and single handedly destroyed one of the great clubs in world football.



Richard Johnson: On the road to recovery.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 4
EASTERN PRIDE 3

By Allan Crisp

Yet another change of name failed to help Eastern Pride break their Hindmarsh Stadium hoodoo against Adelaide City Force, who sprang a sensational second half comeback to triumph 4-3 last Friday night.

The Force looked down and out and headed for their fourth successive loss of the season when they trailed 0-2 at half time.

Pride captain Clayton Bell (3rd minute) and English import Nevilie Roach (36th) scored to lay the foundations for the Victorian team's first win from eight attempts at Hindmarsh.

But the complexion of the contest changed completely when Roach was red carded in the 51st minute for kicking the ball into the net after being called offside. That touch of indiscipline brought the former Southend player his second booking and left the Pride with 10-men for 39 minutes of revival time for the home team.

Zoran Matic's men made the most of their numerical edge by scoring a minute after Roach's expulsion as teenager Scott Tunbridge netted his first NSL goal as he capitalised on a fine cross from Ante Kovacevic to head home.

City intensified its challenge two minutes later as Brad Hassell (the lone scorer for Force from the previous three games) scored with a superb 30-metre volley that topped the magnificent goal he netted against South Melbourne.

With the score balanced at 2-2, City piled the pressure on the Pride, which as the half progressed, resorted to time wasting tactics which brought bookings to goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjevic and veteran Brian MacNicol.

Despite its superiority, the Force appeared set to merely salvage a point until four minutes from normal time when Hassell reinforced the comeback by slotting in a rebound as he latched onto a rebound off Jevdjevic, who had saved a bullet drive from man-of-the-match Gianluca Ligati.

Tunbridge added his second goal two minutes on when again Ligati supplied the ammunition for the youngster's finishing touch.

The goal glut continued a minute later when substitute Ante Deak ghosted into the box to slip the ball past Adrian Cagalj in the Force goal.

Brad Hassell: More superb goals.

That consolation strike softened the Pride's fall, but coach Jeff Hopkins must have rued his team's foolish squandering of precious time after City had drawn level.

Prospects looked rosy for the visitor when Roach punished City with yet another early goal to underline its defensive faults.

Matic made promised changes by surprisingly dropping Italian import Fabrizio Bucciarelli to the bench in favour of promoting young defender Ivan Karlovic for his NSL debut.

Karlovic, recruited from Premier League club Raiders, was outstanding, as were Lagati, Hassell, Carl Veart and Tunbridge, while the disappointing Pride were best served by former City flank defender Dong Ki Kim, Bell and long throw expert, John Hutchinson.

Perhaps Eastern Pride chief executive Peter Quirk's reported prematch threat to sack its entire squad unless there was a dramatic improvement in results, placed too great a burden on the team.

Meanwhile, Matic, asked at the post-game conference if he was relieved to get his first three pointer of the season, replied, "Relief is a very mild word, I was shocked."

Matic was displeased to receive late notification that City midfielder Nick Sabljak had a two match suspension to serve and could not be fielded on Friday night.

"We were not told that Nick was not eligible to play until four O'clock on Thursday night, after we had worked out our game plan." Matic said.

Matic introduced another of his youthful talents with seven minutes left as Nick Budin replaced Nathan Day, who was unfairly booed off the field by a group of fickle supporters.

Day again failed to score, but his work rate and endeavour could not be faulted.

Vice-captain Carl Veart, standing in for injured skipper Aurelio Vidmar, was pleased with the fight back.

"We worked hard for what we got after a poor first half and their time wasting only served to spur us on."

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2

By Greg Danvers

Parramatta Power, on the back of two-second half goals, kept Lloyd Scott Newcastle winless at Marathon Stadium on Friday night.

Power rolled into town with a giant sized squad laden with talent and left with the points to demonstrate that they are one of the top six prospects for this season.

Newcastle were solid in patches, stiffening up at the back with Todd McManus and Chris Zoricich working more cohesively together plus the return of Bob Catlin had a noticeable effect on the team.

Both sides created plenty of chances, Power taking two while Newcastle came up empty handed. Selfless passing when in range a factor and the lack of confidence after a draw and two losses also contributing.

With Mark Wilson shooting wide of goal in the opening minute Newcastle looked like they were going to attack from the outset but the boys from Parra settled into their stride quickly and were able to pressure the Newcastle raids forcing mistakes and challenging the confidence of the strikers.

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey felt his side was in the match at 0-0 at half-time while in the visitors' shed David Mitchell was full of confidence that his side would deliver the goods.

A neat header by Nick Orlic, in the 53rd minute, from a corner that beat an advancing Bob Catlin had Newcastle back pedalling.

But no-one could foresee the events of the next 10 minutes; another goal. Todd McManus scrambling to clear off his line as Bob Catlin copped a knock to the head and was later replaced needing six stitches under his right eye and 8,275 Novocastrians with their heads down. A win or even a draw was needed at home to keep the momentum off the field going.

Support from the community for the team has been great but the fickle sporting supporters demand results and while there is a case for patience the only way to keep that growing support on a roll is with results.

Parramatta's second goal came from a second chance but the execution was shear brilliance.

Newcastle midfielder Antony Surjan was booked by referee Con Diomis and from the restart Power's shot on goal went wide only for Diomis to call the play back and gave the visitors a second chance. A spectator in the crowd apparently had blown a whistle causing some confusion.

Milan Blagojevic, from the far left of field, rifled a square ball to a charging Davis Lee who buried the ball into the roof of the net on the right from around 35 metres.

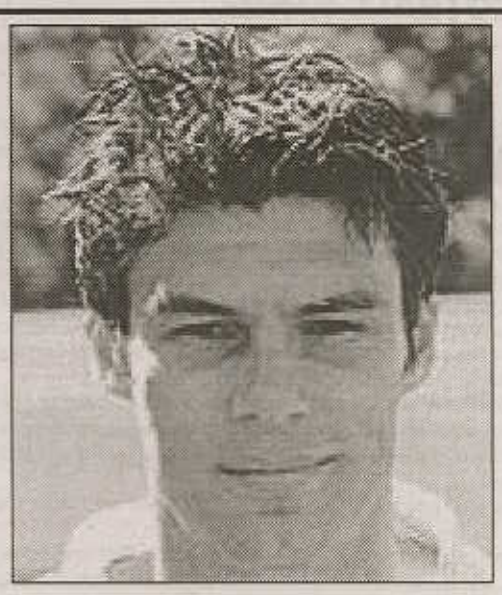
"It was always going to be a tough game," Parramatta Power coach David Mitchell said.

"We know when we come up here the way Lee (Sterrey) organises his team they are going to be hard to play against.

"They are always prepared to roll their sleeves up so you have got to match them on the park in that then you're going to get beaten.

"I think we did that tonight and created a lot of chances and I think we deserved to win the game."

Newcastle countered but as they had done in the first took what appeared the wrong option or the last pass was poor.



Nick Orlic: Great header.

"We are a bit gun shy in front of goal but that comes with confidence," Newcastle United coach Lee Sterrey said.

"Parramatta came here brimming with confidence and that was the difference.

Their front men in and around the box looked sharp.

"We set our blokes up to do some damage but didn't.

"The tide will turn and we've just got to keep working hard to force that."

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
CANBERRA COSMOS 2

By Glenn Davis

Canberra Cosmos remembered the fat lady hadn't sung when they came back from a two-goal deficit on the stroke of fulltime to snatch a 2-2 draw with Brisbane Strikers at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers had the match all but wrapped up when substitute Peter Dwyer headed home four minutes from time to give the home side a commanding 2-0 lead and seemingly their first home win of the season.

Canberra, who haven't beaten the Strikers away for three years, looked down for the count until striker Mark Haggar stretched out his leg to poke home a goal from close range past Strikers' keeper Daniel Duke, officially in the 89th minute.

At first its looked an own goal from skipper Stu McLaren, but Melbourne referee Jeremy Blaney attributed it to Haggar.

Then three minutes into injury time striker Jon Angelucci headed home a cross which tore out the heart of every Strikers player as they watched three certain points slip through their fingers.

The match looked like being a fitting result for John Kosmina's side when it led 2-0 with their Brazilian import, striker Fernando Rech, sitting in the stands after arriving in Brisbane on Saturday morning.

Canberra's Jon Angelucci gets around Brisbane's Shane Stefanutto.

If Kosmina wanted an example to show Rech why he's joined the Strikers, then the Canberra clash was a fitting example.

The Strikers dominated for most of a dull first half with five chances to Canberra's one but they went to the break with only a one goal buffer which came on the stroke of halftime from striker Paul Foster.

Foster, whose only goal this season came in their 3-1 loss to Parramatta the previous round, tapped in from close range after catching Canberra keeper Barney Smith going the wrong way.

The goal, which only trickled over the goal-line, was inititally set up by Nick Meredith, who burst into the box down the left flank before drilling a low cross in for Foster.

The match, played in steady rain, started well enough for Canberra with midfielder Andrew Ravanello chipping a ball in behind the Strikers' defence in the ninth minute for Angelucci who headed wide in front of an open goal.

However, that was to be the visitor's last serious chance in the opening period while the Strikers had four more chances before Foster's gamebreaker.

The second half produced a lot more action with Angelucci striking the crossbar with a neat chip over Duke's head five minutes after the restart.

The woodwork had a major bearing on the result denying the Strikers on a further two occasions.

Dwyer hit the upright in the 70th minute from inside the box while a long-range piledriver from Meredith rebounded off the crossbar for Wayne Srhoj whose follow up from 25 metres shaved the far upright.

Kosmina was naturally upset after the match blaming 'little things' for their downfall.

"It's the small things that let us down," he said.

"They get the opportunity then don't focus.

"I don't think they realise what they are throwing away — they're good enough but don't concentrate."

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PERTH GLORY 1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

By Richard Kreider

The season may still be only four rounds old, but already many of Perth Glory's legions of supporters are expressing a little agitation following a mostly colourless 1-1 draw with Sydney Olympic last Saturday night.

Last season's second highest goal scorers have to date netted just four goals in four games and two of these have been from the penalty spot.

"It's been such a tough beginning for us having to face Wollongong, South Melbourne, Sydney United and Olympic first up," said Glory coach Bernd Stange in defence of the ordinary results.

"After losing to Sydney United the previous week you try to prevent two defeats in a row, so I didn't go for any risk because Olympic are a dangerous side.

"It's hard to play our normal style of attacking football against a team like Olympic who's playing strategy is to use the counter-attack with two or three quick strikers. But now we need one or two wins to get us on our way." Stange said.

"We didn't come here to draw, you come to a place like Perth to win," said Olympic coach Branko Culina.

"I felt Perth had the better of the first half but we took a risk with three strikers after the break and it worked. Although we felt we could have won the game, we won't be too disappointed with the final outcome," he ended.

There was also a little anxiety surrounding the crowd of 12,894 since there was no other drawcard in Perth operating simultaneously to threaten the attendance.

Ironically, the previous low gate at Perth Oval was last season's home and away lowest - 9,328 against Olympic in Round 32.

Perth Glory striker Bobby Despotovski is held back by Sydney Olympic's Scott Baillie.

The home side started in its usual incisive manner with swift attacking moves using Gary Faria and Scott Miller on the flanks as well as Brad Maloney and Kasey Wehrman through the middle.

The killer blow around the Olympic goal however, proved too difficult mainly because of the aerial dominance of Clint Bolton, who despite a dearth of stature collected everything that was sent his way.

His only blemish came after just three minutes when Miller supplied a deep centre off the left that eluded Bolton's fingertips, but Damien Mori, who is keen to notch up his 150th NSL goal, could only manage to nod the ball into the side-netting.

Glory skipper Gareth Naven, sporting a new peroxide look, was as solid as ever in defence and equally effective when driving the ball forward, but could only watch when Olympic took the lead in spectacular fashion just moments into the second-half.

Greg Owens, who has a habit of scoring long-range goals against the Perth side, gathered a fortunate deflection off Glory defender Shane Pryce who was attempting to clear a Lindsay Wilson centre.

In the same rapid action, the youngster released a rising shot that left Jason Petkovic staring in disbelief.

Stange cryptically described Owens goal as "a Sunday shot on a Saturday night."

Former Glory-boy Troy Halpin was his usual industrious self in the centre-third and played an active part in his side's goal by initially sending Wilson along the right flank.

Glory equalised nine minutes further on when Sydney defender Paul Kohler handballed in the area while under pressure from Mori when they both challenged a corner ball.

Bobby Despotovski, who made yet another notable contribution, converted the spot-kick by sending Bolton the wrong way for his 52nd NSL goal and the first Olympic has conceded this season.

The Sydney-siders had a chance to regain the lead in the 72nd minute after substitute defender Ljubo Milicevic was intercepted by substitute Mass Sarr. The ball rolled free to Owens but he failed to punish the error when Petkovic blocked his shot with his legs.

Olympic had the final say in the closing moments with a passing move involving Halpin, Kresimir Marusic and Sarr that ended with the latter heading directly into the grateful gloves of Petkovic.

So while Perth continue to find their feet, Olympic already look every bit a top-six contender despite the loss of many key players during the off-season.

"We've got the players to attack but we also have players that will do the hard yakka and the dirty work. I'd like to think we have got the right balance as the goals against are showing," said Culina.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 4
FOOTBALL KINGZ 2

By Julian Murphy

A 12 minute first-half hat-trick by 18-year-old English striker Ben Burgess laid the foundations for the Northern Spirit's impressive 4-2 home win over the Football Kingz on Friday night.

A disappointing crowd of 4,934 turned out to a wet North Sydney Oval but those who braved the poor conditions were treated to some entertaining football.

The Burgess blitz started in the 22nd minute, moments after team-mate Troy Cranney had an effort disallowed for offside. Cranney did however provide the cross for Burgess' first goal, a neat near post header that whistled past unmoved Kingz Argentinean keeper Julio Cuello.

Burgess collected his second goal seven minutes later after sharp lead up work by Gabriel Mendez and Alex Moreira.

Moriera ran on to his skipper's slick through ball, delivered to the right of the penalty area, before swinging it back in to the box. Burgess received the ball with his back to goal and showed great agility to swivel and fire it in to the back of the net.

Burgess' parents, out from England to visit their son, couldn't have timed their trip any better.

They would have barely had time to resettle in their seats before their son became the first Northern Spirit player to score three goals in a game. Again Moreira was involved in the build up, out muscling Kingz defender Levent Osman for the ball on the edge of the area.

The ball then fell to Burgess who skipped past two Kingz defenders and thundered it past the hapless Cuello.

The Kingz had arrived in Sydney fresh from a strong 5-1 home win over Newcastle United but the early defensive lapses left them with a mountainous task to pick up any sort of result.

The most promising attacks for the New Zealanders in the first half were coming from Aaron Lines down the left flank but his forays were repeatedly closed down by some solid Spirit defending led by player coach Graham Arnold.

Arnold turned in another commendable performance at the back before replacing himself with Scott Thomas at half time.

The Spirit defence did fall asleep briefly in the 41st minute allowing the Kingz to pull back a goal.

Striker Tim Stevens turned past his marker and drilled a left-foot shot towards goal. Spirit ëkeeper Paul Henderson did well to smother the shot only to see it fall to an unmarked Ivan Vicelich who had little trouble in knocking it home from close range.

Conditions deteriorated as the second half got underway yet the Spirit, with their tails up, continued to push forward.

They restored their three-goal lead in the 73rd minute when Mendez converted a penalty following a foul in the area by Cuello on Matt Langdon.

The Kingz finished strongly but it was always going to be too late to retrieve anything from the game. Paul Urlovic came close to scoring on a couple of occasions and Harry Ngata did make it to 4-2 from the spot in the 84th minute.

Ben Burgess: Hat-trick hero

At the other end of the field, Troy Cranney almost capped off an excellent performance with a goal in injury time.

Cuello, who had already had a forgettable night, mis-hit a clearance straight at the Spirit mid fielder. Cranney quickly lobbed the ball over the retreating keeper, only to see it hit the left post.

Satisfying for the Spirit camp will be the combination of Burgess and Moreira up front, an area that caused them problems last season.

It certainly pleased a content Arnold, "I was absolutely delighted with Burgess and Moreira. They seem to compliment each other quite well."

It was the second away loss for the Kingz and assistant coach Shane Rufer was disappointed with the early errors in defence that left the visitors playing catch up for much of the game.

"In parts of the game I thought we played quite well but the first three goals all came from individual errors. You can't afford such sloppy defending against professional teams."

CARLTON SC 4
SYDNEY UNITED 0

By Alan Clark

Early season pace-setters Sydney United were comprehensively beaten by 4-0 by Carlton at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

There was scarcely a winner in a red shirt all day when considering the various personal contests.

Carlton was head and shoulders the better side - the emphatic scoreline neither flattering to Carlton, nor unfair to United.

Indeed, for large parts of the game - especially in the second-half - Carlton looked to be more on a training run than an NSL contest, such was the imbalance of the contest.

Carlton defenders David McPherson and Craig Deans at various times felt underengaged enough in the performance of their normal duties to want to take on some additional work closer to goal.

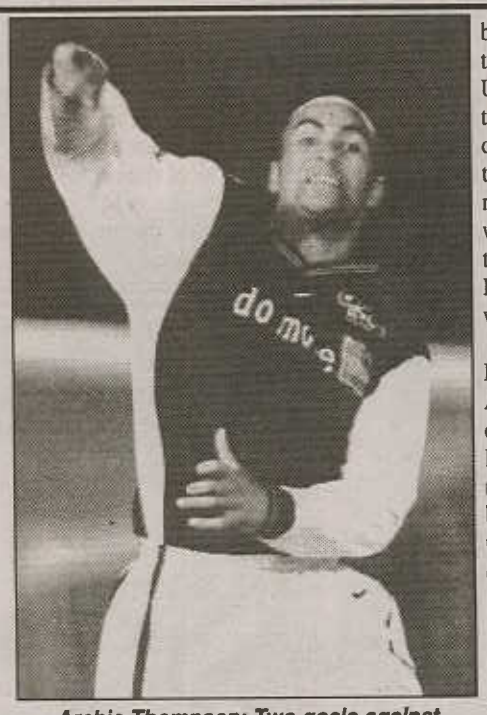
Carlton coach Stuart Munro even had the luxury of removing Olyroo livewire and leading scorer Archie Thompson midway through the second period, such was Carlton's ascendancy.

By then, Thompson had made the game safe with a double before half-time.

"I'm still trying to get (all members of my squad) game time, because we don't have anything other to play other than the (NSL) team," said Munro after the game.

Thompson's energetic play had caused havoc in the United back-line, as he, together with speedsters Ange Motsiopoulos and a slightly withdrawn Andrew Packer were given instructions to exploit what Munro calculated to be a slower United defence.

"I thought Ange did very well today," said Munro. "We intentionally went with the two quick strikers (Motsiopoulos and Thompson) because we felt that (Sydney United) has three good defenders, but the smaller more nimble strikers would cause them problems. It worked quite well for us."



Archie Thompson: Two goals against league leaders United.

Veteran striker Francis Awaritefe had earnt a penalty late in the match, being brought down in the box, but his effort from the spot was saved by Carton's goalkeeper - stand-in captain Dean Anastasiadis.

Archie Thompson opened the scoring with a swift turn and shot which went in off Brett Hughes' far post.

The move started deep in Carlton's back-line when Craig Deans took the ball off Awaritefe and played it to Robert Middleby who in turn sent a through-ball to Andrew Packer.

Packer sped past Richard Plesa who had moved across to intercept, sending in a cross which Thompson tucked away.

Carlton's second came from the penalty spot with just two minutes remaining of the first half. Simon Colosimo had been body-checked by defender Vince Savoca on his way goalwards. Savoca was cautioned, and Thomspon stepped up to score without difficulty.

Hunter reshuffled his formation at the break, withdrawing Mesapi in what proved to be a vain attempt at getting a grip on the game.

Ange Motsiopoulos extended the lead with his debut goal for the club 10 minutes into the second half, much to his and his team-mates' obvious delight.

But the credit belongs equally to Packer who wriggled by three ineffective Sydney United challenges to reach the edge of the penalty-area.

Packer himself was shaping to shoot, only to find the eager Motsiopoulos had got in first.

And it was Simon Colosimo, otherwise with a solid but quiet game, who hammered home the fourth and final goal late in the game with a thunderbolt shot from 30 metres which past Hughes before he could react.

"We knew what we would be up against," said a rueful Sydney United coach Alan Hunter after the game, tasting defeat for the first time in charge.

"Carlton is a good team. We had the best of the first 10 minutes - there were two very good chances we didn't put away. We got outplayed."

There's a chance that United's squad will have a tough time on the training ground this week if Hunter's post-match comments are any guide.

"We didn't work as hard as we had in the last three weeks. We had two or three players who were obviously reading their press, and I've told them that.

"We'll get back to hard work this week for (next week's game against) Marconi."

United striker Zlatko Arambasic will be fighting to get fit for that derby match, after being substituted with a hamstring injury on the hour.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

By Bert van Bedaf

It's wasn't exactly Star Wars. They could not keep the Wolves at bay and Mark Viduka's spirit wasn't with them. Despite a second half fight back, the Melbourne Knights lost their second match in a row and dropped to ninth place.

Meanwhile, Wollongong climbed to fourth place on the NSL ladder as they edged past the home side 2-1 at Somers St last Sunday.

But the titleholder had to wait until the 40th minute before it forced the breakthrough. It struck a second time a minute later to set up victory.

Midfielder Stuart Young was involved in both goals to be among Wollongong's better players, together with Paul Reid and ex-Knight and Carlton defender David Cervinski.

Matt Horsley put the Wolves in front and Reid struck the second goal four minutes before the break.

Angolan striker Toto Da Costa scored his first goal for the Knights in the second half to lift the home team to a desperate effort to clinch a draw. Da Costa is gradually finding his way in the league. An audacious overhead went wide in the first half. But the striker, who also played in Portugal and Holland, was on the spot to keep hopes of a draw alive.

But the solid and experienced Wolves clung to victory rather in a workmanlike fashion than with any great flair or style.

Towards the end they simply defended by kicking the ball long, over the sideline and into the grandstand.

Wollongong's Saso Petrovski gets in front of the Knights' Jason Vukadin.

"Getting two quick goals gave us the game. At 2-0 we were cruising. But the Knights put us under pressure in the second half. But we recovered our composure, allowing us to take the game," Wollongong coach Ron Corry said.

"Two silly mistakes cost us two goals and the game," Knights coach Vlado Vanis said.

"We threw everything at Wollongong in the second half and we got a goal.

"We did what we could and maybe we could have drawn the game. We had two or three good chances, but full credit to the Wolves. They are an experienced side," he said.

Young provided the cross that Scott Chipperfield helped along to a busy Horsley on the right. Horsley unleashed a right-foot shot that slotted into the net in the far corner underneath Knights 'keeper Lou Acevski.

Young again provided the vital pass a minute later. Knights defender Ivan Zelic intercepted, but Reid robbed Zelic off the ball and struck it in the left corner again under an outstretched Acevski.

The Wolves had most of the play in the first half and could have gone ahead in the 38th minute when Saso Petrovski made an attempt from close range. But on this occasion Acevski was on his mettle and punched the ball for a corner.

Acevski again came to the rescue in the 63rd minute. David Cervinski put in the cross and Young headed on target from 10 metres. But Acevski denied him, punching the ball over the bar with a reflex save.

The Knights halved Wollongong's lead in the 78th minute. Forward Joel Porter worked his way through the Wolves defence and cut the ball back at the goal line. Da Costa was on the spot, poking the ball through a forest of Wollongong legs with his first goal for his new club.

The Knights face South Melbourne on Sunday and will need to pull out all stops to avoid a third defeat in a row. Wollongong meets Parramatta Power in a tight clash that might net a draw.

MARCONI STALLIONS 1
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

By Vince Battiato

A superb blast from Marconi's Brendan Renaud six minutes from time rescued a point for Marconi after they had trailed for most of the game.

A Fausto De Amicis backpass to keeper Michael Petkovic was the catalyst for the equaliser after De Amicis had been put under pressure from substitute Christian Care.

Amazingly the indirect free-kick inside the box was the first such one awarded to the Stallions at Marconi stadium since the rule came about.

With a wall of South players making it virtually impossible to even see the net, let alone score, Renaud smashed his curling shot into the top left hand corner and into the roof of the net.

South Melbourne can probably consider themselves unlucky after spurning a number of chances after taking the lead in the 18th minute.

South skipper Paul Trimboli had put South in front after a Zeljko Susa ball found Con Boutsianis on the left. There was a suspicion of handball but Boutsianis lobbed cross found the head of Trimboli who outjumped Dominic Longo.

South Melbourne should have wrapped up the game in the 63rd minute when a delightful ball by Trimboli left Andy Vlahos in the box with plenty of room but he smashed his shot over the bar.

But Marconi were thwarted themselves two minutes later when Petkovic pulled off a remarkable double save from Marconi's two young strikers Saso Radulovic and Royce Brownlie.

Brownlie was substituted within seconds by Norman Tome whose first touch was almost a midas one, his curling shot headed for the top corner before Petkovic tipped over the bar.

In a game where Marconi seemed to lack a link between the midfield and the front men they almost paid dearly at the back in the final minute when Vlahos again found himself with space in the box but miss-kicked, the ball falling to Anastasiadis, who from four yards swung air to leave the scores level.

Although disappointed South Melbourne coach Micky Petersen was pleased overall:

"I can't ask for more from the boys," he said, "We've had a tough last couple of matches and we just can't get the results at the moment.

"I guess you've just got to take your chances, but that's football."

Marconi's Royce Brownlie shoots despite a challenge from South Melbourne's Steve Panopoulos.

ABSW Player of the Year Points

ROUND FOUR

Northern Spirit v Auckland Kingz
3 — B. Burgess (NS)
2 — T. Cranney (NS)
1 — A. Moreira (NS)

Adelaide City v Eastern Pride
3 — G. Ligati (AC)
2 — B. Hassell (AC)
1 — A. Kovacevic (AC)

Marconi v South Melbourne
3 — Z. Susa (SM)
2 — B. Renaud (MS)
1 — D. Aceski (MS)

Carlton v Sydney United
3 — A. Thompson (C)
2 — A. Packer (C)
1 — L. Lapsansky (C)

Newcastle v Parramatta Power
3 — D. Lee (PP)
2 — T. McManus (NU)
1 — J. Griffiths (PP)

Brisbane Strikers v Canberra
3 — N. Meredith (BS)
2 — M. Hagger (CC)
1 — P. Grierson (BS)

Perth Power v Sydney Olympic
3 — G. Naven (PG)
2 — C. Bolton (SO)
1 — S. Sinozic (SO)

Melb Knights v Wollongong
3 — P. Reid (WW)
2 — M. Horsley (WW)
1 — J. Porter (MK)

PROGRESSIVE POINTS AFTER ROUND FOUR

N. Carle	(Sydney Olympic)	8
A. Thompson	(Carlton)	8
A. Costanzo	(Marconi Stallions)	6
L. Lapsansky	(Carlton)	6
B. Burgess	(Northern Spirit)	6
Z. Susa	(South Melbourne)	6
A. Elrich	(Parramatta Power)	5
F. Awaritefe	(Sydney United)	5
T. Stevens	(Auckland Kingz)	5
G. Arnold	(Northern Spirit)	4
N. Roach	(Eastern Pride)	4
J. Griffiths	(Parramatta Power)	4
B. Hassell	(Adelaide City)	4
P. Grierson	(Brisbane Strikers)	4
M. Hagger	(Canberra Cosmos)	4

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

ROUND TWO – Sunday 5 November

Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

SENSATION HOLD ON FOR WIN

ADELAIDE SENSATION 2
(Jessica Halfpenny 13m, 56m)
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1
(Amber Neilson 68m)

Adelaide Sensation produced an important 2-1 victory over Northern NSW Pride, gaining in confidence after Jessica Halfpenny converted from the spot on 12 minutes to give them the lead after a handball near goal.

Northern started the second half well but Adelaide doubled the lead against the run of play in the 56th minute, Halfpenny with a beautiful chip over the keeper.

Pride pulled one back when captain Amber Neilson finished an Ashley Wilson cross midway through the half, but despite several great chances, could not get past a gutsy Adelaide defence to produce an equaliser.

Sensation almost scored a third in the dying minutes, Chichi May curling her freekick against the crossbar.

Sensation: Wirkus, Vozzo, Gawlik, C May, H May, Spagnoletti, Winn, Morris, Alagich, Jones, Halfpenny.

Pride: Praszczalek, Ingles, Alley, Dunne (Scevak 59), Aimie Neilson (Stevens 46) (Colthorpe 64), Wilson, Amber Neilson, McMinn, Attwill, Gill, King (Crawford 46).

STING LOOKING GOOD

QUEENSLAND STING 3
(Jamara Maza 37m, Kim Revell 58m, Lisa Dunne 65m)
CANBERRA ECLIPSE 0
(Amber Neilson 68m)

Queensland Sting stand alone at the top of the ladder, the only team to emerge from the doubleheader round with maximum points.

Queensland outgunned Canberra Eclipse for a comfortable 3-0 win, the experienced Sting outfit dominating from start to finish. Lively midfielder Jamara Maza opened the account in the 37th minute with a classy chip over the keeper from 14 metres.

The Maroons doubled their lead when captain Kim Revell tapped in the loose ball after a Lana Harch shot was saved in the 58th minute.

Sting's third came via substitute Lisa Dunne, left to merely touch the ball into goal after the keeper had misjudged the corner kick.

Sting: Nichols, Nolan, Bartlett, McShea, Tramacchi, Duus (Blackwell 80), Revell, Maza (Mitchell 65), Harch (Canham 75), Ferguson, Mann (Dunne 59).

Eclipse: Butland, Taylor, Borucinski, Hoy, Staniforth, Wilson, Karp, P Hepperlin, D Hepperlin, Rawson, Doyle.

VISION SNATCH POINT IN THRILLER

VICTORIA VISION 2
(Selin Kuralay 78m, Leigh Terek 91m)
NSW SAPPHIRES 2
(Heather Garriock 13m, Taryn Rockall 92m)

Last year's woodenspooners Victoria Vision scored the upset of the day, almost snatching a late winner against defending champions NSW Sapphires before settling for a draw.

Favourites NSW Sapphires took the lead after 13 minutes through a great Heather Garriock drive from the left. But Victoria Vision kept up the fight throughout and were well in the contest for the second half. They equalised with Selin Kuralay's sensational solo goal in the 78th minute but there was more to come.

NSW created three good chances, sub Catherine Cannuli unlucky as her volley on the turn crashed against the left post. But then Vision midfielder Leigh Terek sent their fans into raptures in the first minute of injury time with an amazing 40 metre strike sailing in past the keeper for the underdogs to snatch the 2-1 lead.

But the celebrations were short-lived when, in the very next minute, NSW midfielder Taryn Rockall was fouled in the box.

Rockall took the resultant penalty confidently, driving it low beyond the keeper's reach and saving some face for the Sapphires.

Vision: Barbieri, Bisby, Wright, Saville, Groenewald, Terek, Digiammarco, Jansen, Lovie (Romano 57), Kuralay, Rea (Humble 80).

Sapphires: Kell, Tann-Darby, Warrener, Kristine Collins, Garriock, L Collins, McCallum, Rockall, Klessattel (Davison 33), Golebiowski (Cannuli 78), Carney.

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PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
QUEENSLAND STING	2	2	-	-	4	0	4	6
NSW SAPPHIRES	2	1	1	-	4	3	1	4
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	2	1	-	1	3	3	0	3
ADELAIDE SENSATION	2	1	-	1	2	2	0	3
VICTORIA VISION	2	-	1	1	3	4	-1	1
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	2	-	-	2	1	5	-4	0

TOP GOALSCORERS

3	Taryn ROCKALL NSW Sapphires
2	Tara McMINN Northern NSW Pride
2	Jamara MAZA Queensland Sting
2	Jessica HALFPENNY Adelaide Sensation

NEXT ROUNDS - Ainslie Football Club, Canberra

ROUND 3 - Fri 17 Nov - Ainslie Football Club, Canberra

Victoria Vision	v	Queensland Sting	2.00pm
NSW Sapphires	v	Northern NSW Pride	4.00pm
Canberra Eclipse	v	Adelaide Sensation	6.00pm

ROUND 4 - Sun 19 Nov - Ainslie Football Club, Canberra

Queensland Sting	v	NSW Sapphires	11.00am
Adelaide Sensation	v	Victoria Vision	1.00pm
Northern NSW Pride	v	Canberra Eclipse	3.00pm

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NSW Premier League

BLACKTOWN KICK OFF WITH A WIN

Blacktown City	1
Leichhardt Tigers	0

By Julian Murphy

Defending champions Blacktown City began their quest for a fourth successive title with a solid 1-0 win over Leichhardt at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday night.

A 14th minute goal to new signing Darren Iocca was enough to seal the three points for the home side in opening game of the revamped competition.

The Demons will be happy with the result as the 18 game league means there is no time for any side to ease their way in to the season. In fact, the margin could have been greater with both Iocca and strike partner Damien Brown failing to convert golden opportunities late in the game.

Blacktown came into the game without regular forwards Jim Aschner, Zlatko Donev and young Adam Kwasnik, all unavailable due to injuries and suspensions.

The makeshift pairing of Iocca and Brown more than filled the void combining extremely well, perhaps only lacking the ability to apply the finishing touches on a couple of occasions.

The changes in the Blacktown lineup were not only up front as many key players from last year have since joined NSL or other clubs. Their opposition fielded a strong side with many of last years Tigers as well as some new signings taking the field.

Iocca had already made the Leichhardt defence uncomfortable in the early stages before he scored the gameís only goal. Brown beat two defenders down the right flank before cutting in and delivering a pinpoint cross to the ex-Fairfield playmaker. Iocca was left with a simple tap in and was pleased to get a goal on debut for his new club.

Damon Langan: New skipper played well.

"It was a good performance by the boys and it is always good to get a goal. Luckily we weren't made to pay for our misses at the end."

Moments later the Demons almost doubled their lead with a mirror image effort on the left. This time Iocca provided the cross but a desperate lunge by Tigers defender Blago Milicevic prevented an unmarked Brown from getting on the end of it.

Leichhardt did press forward but werenít allowed to do much more than blast away at goal from outside the area. In the second half DeCelis made some early changes, bringing on Vuko Tomasevic and new players Matthew Borg and Sam Larocca, in an attempt to salvage something from the game. The visitors had much of the second half possession but on several occasions the final pass into the box would go astray. Demons ëkeeper John Crawley was well protected by the likes of Vadim Mitkouski, Paul Yates and Patrick Gatt.

The Blacktown defence hadn't had much time to get used to each other but they still turned in a very competent display. New skipper Damon Langan also stood out in the midfield providing plenty of go forward and his abrasive style unsettled the opposition.

SAINTS CLINCH LOCAL DERBY

St George	2
Canterbury M'ville	1

By Mark Stavroulakis

The new summer NSW Super League season started off with a bang on a wet and miserable Friday night at St George Stadium.

The home side St George took on the oldest club in the Super League, Canterbury Marrickville.

The game started off well with the boys from Canterbury dominating the first 20 minutes of the match. Mid-way through the first half, the Berries struck first with a clever goal from Steve Christoforidis. Last year's Super League player of the year, Jimmy Nikas ran down the left hand side and gave a pin point cross to Christoforidis' head who slotted it in for the first goal of the match. Towards the end of the half, the Saints went close to scoring with shots from Kladis and Alexiou, but to no avail.

Second half saw the Saints dominate from the whistle and were rewarded with a brilliant individual goal by former Olympic youth player Leon Alexiou in the 53rd minute. He dribbled past a handful of players and slotted the ball past Bello Amigo's post for the equaliser.

After an array of chances by both sides, the Saints cracked the Berries defence once again in the 75th minute with a brilliantly taken free kick by none other than ex-Olympic star Chris Kalantzis. Captain of the Saints Michael Kladis worked a set piece with Kalantzis who scored one of his trademark goals with a thunderous strike that sent the 1500 fans crazy.

Substitute Nick Polymenakos had the chance to wrap the match up for the Saints but was denied by the woodwork in the dying stages of the game. The match finished victorious for the home side who snared the three points and won the all-important first match of the season.

Notable performances from the Saints were captain Michael Kladis who stamped his authority in the back line for the Saints. Youngsters Alex Leris and George Maglis also played well, but it was Chris Kalantzis who grabbed the headlines with his scorching goal to give the Saints maximum points. For the away side, last year's player of the year Jimmy Nikas played well as well as keeper Jose Bello Amigo.

St George: S.Alogdelis, N.Bolianidis, M. Kladis, S. Verrender, G. Maglis, E. Petratos, L. Alexiou, C. Kalantzis, E. Papageorgiou, A. Leris, M. Sevares.

Subs Used: N. Polymenakos, S. Papadopoulos, B. Petrovski.

Canterbury: J. Bello Amigo, G. Collins, M. Percy, C. Paradisis, F Pellegreno, S. Christoforidis, J. Nikas, P. Gaffney, A. Molachino, J. Kyriazopoulos, S. Wells.

Subs Used: T. Sidiratos, J. Corbo.

Referee: Greg Leverton

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belconnen	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Central Coast	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
St George	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Blacktown City	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Parramatta	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sutherland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Bonnyrigg	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Canterbury	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Leichhardt	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Penrith	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

NSW Premier League

NSW Premier League

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Leichhardt v St George Saints
Parramatta Eagles v Blacktown

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Under 19s: 5.00pm
C'bury M'ville v Central Coast
Bonnyrigg WE v Penrith

First Grade: 7.00pm
HENSON PARK
SERBIAN CENTRE

Under 19s: 4.30pm
Belconnen v Sutherland Sharks

First Grade: 7.00pm
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NSW PREMI

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 1

ROUND 1: 3/4 November

St George Saints	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 2

ROUND 2: 10/11 November

Leichhardt Tigers	v	St George Saints	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 5

ROUND 5: 1/2 December

St George Saints	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 6

ROUND 6: 9/10 December

Sutherland Sharks	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	St George Saints	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 9

ROUND 9: 12/14 December

Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	St George Saints	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 10

ROUND 10: 19/21 December

Canterbury Marrickville	v	St George Saints	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 12

ROUND 12: 2/4 February

Parramatta Eagles	v	St George Saints	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 13

ROUND 13: 10 February

St George Saints	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 15

ROUND 15: 23/24 December

St George Saints	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 17

ROUND 17: 9/10 March

Central Coast Coasties	v	St George Saints	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....

ER LEAGUE

NSW Premier League

SWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 3

OUND 3: 17/18 November

St George Saints	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 4

ROUND 4: 24/26 November

Belconnen Blue Devils	v	St George Saints	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....

SWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 7

OUND 7: 16 December

Canterbury Marrickville	v	Belconnen Blue Eagles	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	St George Saints	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Blacktown City Demons	....:....
Canterbury Marrickville	v	TBA	....:....
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sutherland Sharks	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....

NSWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 8

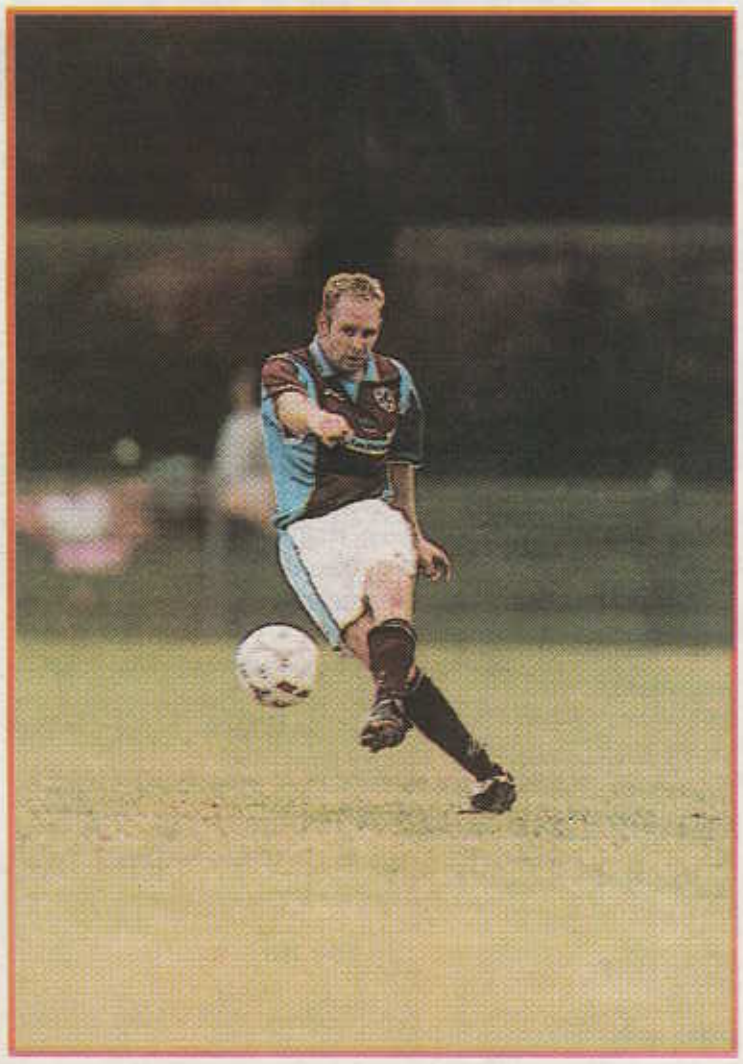
ROUND 8: 6/7 December

St George Saints	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....

SWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 11

OUND 11: 26/27 January

St George Saints	v	Leichhard Tigers	....:....
Central Coast Coasties	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	....:....



SWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 14

OUND 14: 17/18 February

Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	St George Saints	....:....
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....

SWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 16

OUND 16: 2/4 March

St George Saints	v	Penrith Panthers	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Parramatta Eagles	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....

✦ ✦ ✦ FINALS ✦ ✦ ✦

MAJOR & MINOR SEMI FINALS
24/25 March 2001

PRELIMINARY FINAL
31 March or 1 April 2001

GRAND FINAL
7 or 8 April 2001

SWSF PREMIER PREMIER ROUND 18

OUND 18: 17 March

St George Saints	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	....:....
Penrith Panthers	v	Central Coast Coasties	....:....
Blacktown City Demons	v	Canterbury Marrickville	....:....
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Parramatta Eagles	....:....
Sutherland Sharks	v	Leichhardt Tigers	....:....

LEICHHARDT TIGERS SOCCER CLUB

PENRITH PANTHERS SOCCER CLUB

ST.GEORGE

SHARKS

National Youth League 2000/2001

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 4)

FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2000

Newcastle United .....0 **Parramatta Power** ..1
(name of goalscorer not available)

Northern Spirit .....2 **NSWIS** 0
(Catanzaro 30', R. Griffiths 67')

SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2000

QAS .....6 **Canberra Cosmos** ..4
(McKay 17', Johnson 42', Miner 49' Cawley 59', Drake 76', Walsh 87') *(Veljanovski 3', Ivanic 14' 31', Camara 44')*

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2000

Sydney O. Academy .....0 **Wollongong Wolves** .3
(Austin 28', Barilla 39', Dellis 70')

ACT Academy .....3 **Sydney Olympic** 2
(Caputo 32', Waldon 54', O'Brien 69') *(Macallister 21', Tirovski 23')*

Marconi Stallions .....2 **Marconi S. Colts** 0
(Gulessarian 73' 90')

AIS .....3 **Newcastle Utd Colts** .0
(Martin 44' 57', Smith 51')

Bye – Sydney United

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**14**	**4**	**12**
Marconi Stallions	4	3	1	0	0	7	1	10
A.I.S.	4	3	0	0	1	7	3	9
Wollongong Wolves	3	2	1	1	0	7	0	7
Parramatta Power	4	2	1	0	1	7	4	7
Marconi Stallions Colts	4	2	0	1	2	12	4	6
Q.A.S.	5	2	0	0	3	10	15	6
Sydney Olympic	4	1	1	0	2	7	7	4
N.S.W.I.S.	3	1	1	0	1	2	3	4
Sydney United	3	1	0	1	2	6	4	3
Newcastle United	3	1	0	0	2	3	2	3
Canberra Cosmos	3	1	0	1	2	7	10	3
ACT Academy	4	0	0	0	4	3	17	3
Sydney Olympic Academy	4	0	1	0	3	3	9	1
Newcastle United Colts	2	0	0	0	2	0	9	0

LEADING SCORERS

Simon Catanzaro	**Northern Spiri**	**5**
Matt Engle	Northern Spirit	3
Nick Tavoutksis	Marconi Stallions Colts	3
Alex Brosque	Marconi Stallions Colts	3

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 2)

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2000

Sth Melb. Eagles Academy ..3 **Mel. Knights Ac** 2
(Vince Zafferano 2, own goal) *(Ralph Napoli, Adrian Cervinski)*

Preston Lions .....1 **Carlton P. Blues** 9
(Sam Satin) *(Nick Waite 3, Bruce Edwards 2, Carlo Malina 2, Leigh Barrett, Caleb Nicholls)*

Green Gully .....0 **VIS** 2
(Michael Sham-Yuen, Vito Ceniti)

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2000

Albury Wodonga .....3 **Eastern Pride** 1
(Pedro Ansonso 2, Mario Antonello) *(Denis Mustac)*

Fawkner Blues .....2 **Sth Melb Eagles Ac.** 8
(Ross Lagana, Brett Cunningham) *(Steven Esposito, Massimo Murdocca, Marco Sentili, Dimitri Tsiaras, Rade Culibrk, Vas Kalogeracos, Sammy Rattin, own goal)*

South Dandenong .....3 **Bulleen Zebras** 0
(Veton Korcarevski, Victor Memeti, Selo Osmani)

Melbourne Knights v Bye
Carlton v Bye

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne Institute	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**3**	**6**
VIS	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Carlton Peninsula Blues	2	1	0	1	9	2	3
South Dandenong	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
South Melbourne Eagles Ac	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Albury Wodonga	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Melbourne Knights	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bulleen Zebras	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Melbourne Knights Academy	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Eastern Pride	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Carlton	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Green Gully Cavaliers	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Fawkner Blues	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Preston Lions	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION
ROUND 3

This draw is a draft only, please confirm with home club before attending matches

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2000
Eastern Pride v South Melbourne Eagles Academy,
(Mobil Stadium, 5 pm)

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2000
VIS v Albury Wodonga,
(Grange Reserve, 4 pm)

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2000
Carlton Peninsula Blues v Bulleen Zebras,
(Lawton Reserve, 4 pm)
Melbourne Knights Academy v Carlton,
(Knights Stadium, 4 pm)
Green Gully v South Dandenong,
(Green Gully Reserve, 4 pm)
Preston Lions v Bye
Fawkner Blues v Bye

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2000
South Melbourne Institute v Melbourne Knights,
(Bob Jane Stadium, 7 pm)

By Roy Hay

South Melbourne Eagles Academy, which is based at Keilor Park, played Melbourne Knights Academy in the opening match of Round 2 of the Southern Division of the National Youth League on Saturday, winning by 3-2.

Ralph Napoli scored after only six minutes to give the Knights the early advantage, which they held until after half-time. Vince Zafferano equalised in 62 minutes, setting off a sequence of goals which left the teams locked at 2-2 by the 65th minute. First the Knights conceded an own goal, then Adrian Cervinski got his second goal in a youth league match in succession as he recovers from injury. Zafferano secured the points for the Eagles with his second goal after 82 minutes.

Carlton Peninsula Blues proved too strong for a young Preston Lions side at Connor Reserve, running out victorious by 9-1.

Nick Waite scored a hat-trick and doubles fell to Bruce Edwards and Carlo Malina. Leigh Barrett and Caleb Nicholls also scored for the Blues, and Sam Satin got the consolation goal for the Lions. Blues coach Gus McLeod was 'delighted with the performance. We have only had the lads for a month, but they are beginning to play together well'.

The Victorian Institute of Sport travelled to Green Gully to beat the local team by 2-0. Striker Michael Sham-Yuen got his first for the season just before the interval and a late goal in 84 minutes by Vito Ceniti sealed the points for the VIS. Adic Cehic in the backline and midfielder Bob Lojanica were the best of the Green Gully side, which looks quite competitive this season.

Albury Wodonga Warriors had a fine come from behind win over Eastern Pride by 3-1. The Pride dominated the first half but had only a single goal by Denis Mustac to show for its possession.

Even the Warriors support were relieved to go in with that narrow deficit. The second half was more even but the Warriors took their chances, starting with Pedro Asonso whose left-foot shot hit the post then struck the keeper before finishing in the net. Asonso converted a penalty to give his side the lead, then Mario Antonello took advantage of a mistake in the Pride defence and beat the keeper.

South Dandenong overcame Bulleen Zebras by 3-0. The first half produced no goals, though South Dandenong was well on top.

Then in the second period it began to convert its chances, of which there were many. Veton Korcarevski opened the scoring, though he blotted his copybook by being sent off later in the match. Viktor Memeti scored his second goal in successive games and youngster Selo Osmani made it three with his first goal for the club at Youth League level. Bulleen struggled to make an impression this time round.

Fawkner Blues found the South Melbourne Institute too hot to handle, with the South Melbourne team running out winners by 8-2. Ross Lagana and Brett Cunningham scored for Fawkner, which held the Blues to 2-1 at the break. South Melbourne had seven individual scorers with the remaining one coming from an own goal.

Steve Esposito, Massimo Murdocca, Marco Sentili, Dimitri Tsiaras, skipper Rade Culibrk, Vas Kalogeracos and Sammy Rattin got their names on the scoresheet.

Melbourne Knights and Carlton had the byes this week.

LEADING SCORERS

Nick Waite	Carlton Peninsula Blues	3
Pedro Asonso	Albury Wodonga	2
Bruce Edwards	Carlton Peninsula Blues	2
Carlo Malina	Carlton Peninsula Blues	2
Denis Mustac	Eastern Pride	2
Adrian Cervinski	Melbourne Knights Ac	2
Victor Memeti	South Dandenong	2
Vince Zafferano	South Melbourne Eagles Ac	2
Rade Culibrk	South Melbourne Institute	2
Massimo Murdocca	South Melbourne Institute	2

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Ahmad Elrich

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Ahmad Elrich
Club:	Parramatta Power
DOB:	30/5/81
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Black
Height:	180cm
Weight:	73kg
Positions Played:	Right Wing Back

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13-1st Grade — Melita Eagles
Signed a professional contract with Power in '99
Age Started Playing Soccer: 4

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Making my 1st grade debut against Gippsland Falcons and being selected to trial for the U20's Young Socceroo squad.
Ambition: To play overseas and to be consistent
Words Of Advice: 'Work hard and set future goals'
Best Advice Received: 'Never give up' *(Father, Mahmoud)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Jacky Chan
Favourite Actress: Salma Hayek
Top 5 Movies:
-Scarface
-Bad Boys -
-Boyz In The Hood
-The Green Mile
-Rush Hour
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Michael Douglas in Basic Instinct
Best ever concert: The opening of HOME nightclub in Sydney
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Wild 11
-Craig David
-Mariah Carey
-George Michael — Greatest Hits
-Michael Jackson - History
Favourite TV show: Australia's Most Wanted
Favourite Cartoon Character: Bart Simpson
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Mike Tyson
-Prince Nazeem Hamad
-Mum
-Dad
-Pamela Anderson
-Salma Hayek
Entrée: Prawn Cocktails
Main Course: T-bone steak
Dessert: Ice Cream with Strawberries

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Zinedine Zidane
Favourite Overseas Team: Manchester United
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Abbas Saad and Milan Blagojevic
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Mark Viduka
Most Admired Defender: Nick Orlic
Most Admired Midfielder: Milan Blagojevic
Most Admired Striker: Abbas Saad
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Andrew Crews
Hardest Opponent (Played): All opponents I play against are hard

At the age of 19, Ahmad Elrich is a familiar name being heard around the National League.

This young star has already shown signs of becoming an exceptional player and with his age, anything can happen.

Ahmad's early years were spent at Melita Eagles where he enjoyed much success. It was at the Eagles where people knew that he was a player in the making.

"It was great being at the Eagles as a lot of my cousins were there at that time. At first, soccer for me was having fun and being with your mates, but then all things changed when some coaches at the club saw something in me. I changed my views on the game and became much more professional," said Elrich

At the age of 17, Elrich made many 1st grade appearances with Melita in the vigorous NSW Super League.

Straight after his season at the Eagles, Ahmad was selected to tour Lebanon with an Australian-Lebanese Select side.

"We had a great team, players like Abbas Saad, Ray Younis, Robbie Stanton, Michael Reda and George Nohra are all National League players. It was fun as well as I was interested to see where my parents were from.

"We spent two weeks there and won three out of four matches which was pretty good. Overall an experience I will never forget," said the right wing back.

Ahmad Elrich: Enjoy life at the 'Powerhouse.'

It was after the Lebanon tour, Elrich was sighted to play for the Power.

Elrich's first year at the Power was awesome to say the least, as, being one of the youngest in the side, he played many 1st grade games.

"I had a good first season, and I was happy 'Mitch' gave me my debut against Gippsland which was something I will never forget. After that game I was always in the squad and played 21 games all up, scoring one goal against Sydney United.

"I noticed that the National League was much more tactical and skillful and players had very good vision. Also positioning on the park played a big role, however I was pleased with my first year," said the rising star.

Before the season started this year, Parramatta Power toured Vietnam and took part in a Pre-season tournament.

"We spent two weeks in Vietnam and won a tournament that was organised by the people there. It was a good experience for me as we played in front of 15-20,000.

Ahmad is one of the thirty plus players who a couple of months back got chosen to trial for the U20 Young Socceroos. "It was great getting a call-up, Ange is looking at all of us and hopefully if I keep putting in good performances at the Power, I can get into the squad," said the hopeful youngster.

'Zac' as his mates know him really enjoys being at the Power and admits that Dave Mitchell is doing a great job. "Mitch has helped my game a lot and he always takes the time out in helping my game. He's one of the boys and I'm very happy to have him as our coach," said Elrich.

The introduction of players like Orlic and Tobin have increased the experience level at the Power. "Both Tobin and Orlic have made our defence much stronger and have added a lot more talking to the whole team itself.

Nick Orlic is especially encouraging as he really pumps me up before we play," said Ahmad.

Parramatta Power are a club that this season have surged forward in creating a good youth system.

With many good young and up and coming players at hand, the Power have a great future ahead of them.

One such player who is currently apart of the Power youth squad is young gun Paul Down.

This young wing back first kick started his career at Melita Eagles. He spent four good seasons there and knows that it was a club that first spearheaded his career towards professionalism.

"Melita was a club that gave young guys a chance. They wanted to see how well young players would play against the older guys. It was good because I lived near the ground so getting to training and games was not a problem for me," said Down.

Whilst at Melita, 'Downsy' was involved in the Under 14's NSW state side that played at Nowra. They finished equal first with Victoria, but it was putting on that blue and white jersey that made Paul feel proud.

"I was proud to be part of a great squad and it was a good experience for me.

"It was an interstate competition and being among so many good players was great for my confidence as well," said the keen fisherman.

After his season at the Eagles, Paul knew that it was time to step up a level and try his luck at a National League club. "Once I finished at the Eagles, I was on the books to sign for Marconi Colts.

"However, playing for Melita, they were one of the sides that were part of the Parramatta Power district so trying out for their youth squad was a must. They thought I had signed for Marconi so they used me as an extra player up front which was not my position.

Paul Down: Big future ahead.

At the end of the match they were very keen in signing me up and after I told them I hadn't signed with anyone yet, they took me up on a youth contract," said the lucky star.

'Downsy's' first year at the Power was awesome as they took out the inaugural National Youth League competition. "When I signed up with the Power, because I was 16, I thought I'd be spending more time on the bench than playing.

However, I started playing to the best of my ability and got into the squad. We had quite a good side considering we put our team together two weeks before the competition started. It was a huge buzz winning the final against Marconi 1-0, as we played at my old ground, Melita Stadium. It brought back good memories and a lot of my old Melita mates were there to see me win the title," said the lucky 17-year-old.

So far this year, Parramatta Power's youth squad has many new inclusions to the side, and it usually takes a bit of time until the team gels together.

"We've had a rough start to the season because the team is practically new.

"We have won our last two games, which has been pleasing, but we still need a couple more games to hit our top form. Our coach Grant Lee has been good as he's been pushing us forward and given all the players good advice."

The former Granville South student who just last week completed his HSC, feels much better now that it's all over.

"The HSC is over and we are getting our marks before Christmas but now it gives me the chance to concentrate more on soccer," said the former student.

"I really want to debut this year with the Power. It's great watching players like young Santalab getting their chances and it gives me an incentive to play much better and just maybe I too can get a call-up," said the promising young Power star.

Paul Down

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Paul Michael Down
Club:	Parramatta Power
DOB:	16/5/83
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Blue
Hair Colour:	Blonde
Height:	177cm
Weight:	70kg
Positions Played:	Right Wing Back

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13-U16 — Melita Eagles
Signed a youth contract for the Power in '99
Age Started Playing Soccer: 6

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Winning last year's National Youth League final against Marconi 1-0 at Melita Stadium.
Ambition: To crack a first team spot and to play for Australia
Words Of Advice: 'Relax and enjoy yourself'
Best Advice Received: 'Attitude goes a long way' *(Paul, Father)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Adam Sandler
Favourite Actress: Catherine Zeta Jones
Top 5 Movies:
-Scary Movie
-Gone in 60 Seconds
-Happy Gilmore
-Don of the Dead
-Liar Liar
Favourite Comedian: Adam Sandler
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Sylvester Stallone in Rocky
Best ever concert: Kiss concert in Sydney
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Various Wild Cd's
-Skitz Mix 5
-Alex K - Kickin Hard
-Green Day - Dookie
-Blink 182
Favourite TV show: Changing Rooms
Favourite Cartoon Character: Bart Simpson
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Girlfriend (Alison)
-Dad
-Mum
-Brian Zann
-Ian Thorp
-Anna Kournikova
Entrée: Mini Spring Rolls
Main Course: Honey Chicken with Fried Rice
Dessert: Ice Cream with Caramel topping

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: David Beckham
Favourite Overseas Team: Manchester United
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Ahmad Elrich
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Jaap Stam
Most Admired Midfielder: David Beckham
Most Admired Striker: Thierry Henry
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Fabian Barthez
Hardest Opponent (Played): Nick Orlic

SCHOOL SOCCER

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL CUP

Kick-off times and venues for the Australian Schools International Cup being held in Canberra during January 2001 have been finalised.

The first match, Australia v New Zealand will kick off at 6.30pm on Monday 8 January at the AIS Athletics Stadium. The second match between Northern Ireland and Wales will kick off at 8.30pm.

"The late kick off times should suit the teams and also allow families to attend in the coolness of the early evening." National Secretary of Australian Schools Soccer, Chris James, was quoted as saying.

Australian Schools Soccer is also interested in finding a sponsor or range of sponsors for the tournament.

"This is the first full tournament that we have staged and envisage this being a regular event every 2-3 years. We are very interested in talking to potential sponsors who want to come on board" James continued.

Australian Schools Soccer can be contacted via email on OzSchools_Soccer@hotmail.com or through Chris James on 02 9212 5080 or 0416 107 489.

Full draw and venues for the tournament are as follows:

Monday 8th January at AIS Athletics Stadium
6.30pm Australia v New Zealand
8.30pm Northern Ireland v Wales

Tuesday 9th January at AIS Athletics Stadium
6.30pm Australia v Northern Ireland
8.30pm New Zealand v Wales

Wednesday 10th January at AIS Soccer Field
3.00pm New Zealand v Northern Ireland
5.00pm Australia v Wales

Thursday 11th January
Rest Day

Friday 12th January at AIS Athletics Stadium
6.30pm 3rd v 4th Play off
8.30pm Tournament Final

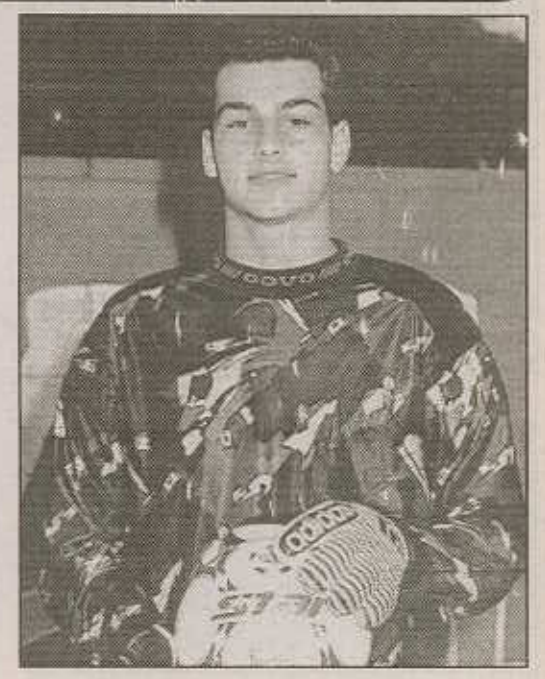
FAMOUS PHOTOS

ABSW's own Richard Kreider with New England coach Sven Goran Eriksson in 1996 when Eriksson was coach of Sampdoria.

Have your photo taken with someone famous in soccer?
Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW.
Send photos to — The Editor:
Australian and British Soccer Weekly
P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 1475
Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to
soccerweekly@hotmail.com or
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
**All photos will be returned*

JUNIOR SOCCER

Young keeper off to England



Richmond Saliba who last season was goalkeeper for Leichhardt Tigers U/15's is off to England on the 13th November.

Richmond first played soccer for Astrolabe in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs from age seven until he was 13.

After which he was selected for Leichhardt Tigers U/14's as a goalkeeper.

He made it to the NSW State team which won the national identification championships at Parklea in July 2000.

Richmond is presently training with the U/19's at Leichhardt Tigers.

Graham says he will stay to put things right at Spurs

Tottenham Hotspur's embattled manager George Graham insisted last week he would stay and put things right at the Premier League club.

Spurs are mid-table and were knocked out of the League Cup by First Division Birmingham City last week.

Graham told a news conference on Thursday: "I'm very determined to put things right here.

"I've been in the game 40 years and it's been wonderful to me, but you have your highs and your lows — now is a low period but I'm determined to get through it.

"I don't have anything to prove to anyone with my record," said the former Arsenal and Leeds United chief.

"I think I'm a better manager than I was before and I'm still trying to improve."

Showing a determination to improve the squad, Graham was scouting for new talent in Europe.

"If the player I want becomes available, we will make every effort to get him and I'm sure the money will be found," he said, without giving details.

Graham won two league titles, one FA Cup, two League Cups and one European Cup Winners' Cup in nine years with Arsenal from 1986.

George Graham: Staying put.

New Brazil coach trusts in Rivaldo

Barcelona playmaker Rivaldo, whose blacklustre displays for Brazil have led to doubts about his international future, has been given the full backing of new national coach Emerson Leao.

Leao, announcing his first squad since replacing sacked Wanderley Luxemburgo for a World Cup qualifier against Colombia, said he had full confidence in Rivaldo and promised to find a role that would allow him to express himself fully.

"Rivaldo is a vital cog in the machine," Leao said. "He is considered the best in the world and he has achieved excellent results in Spain, which is a difficult country to play in.

"Rivaldo has always been admired by me. We have to try and understand where he performs best ... so that he will fulfil his potential when he is serving Brazil."

Although he has been a Brazil regular for the last five years and has scored goals consistently, Rivaldo has never convinced doubters among the home fans who accuse him of lack of effort and invention in midfield.

Leao included two uncapped players, one of them 18-year-old Flamengo striker Adriano, in the squad for next month's home qualifier against Colombia.

Striker Romario, who has scored seven goals in two games since returning from a two-year international absence imposed by Luxemburgo, was included in the squad.

Real Madrid left back Roberto Carlos was overlooked for the third consecutive match, with Gremio's talented striker Ronaldinho Gaucho the other major omission.

Rivaldo: Doubts eased.

Goalkeepers: Rogerio Ceni (Sao Paulo), Bosco (Sport Recife) Defenders - Cafu (AS Roma), Silvinho (Arsenal), Junior (Parma), Edmilson (Lyon), Lucio (Internacional), Roque Junior (Milan).

Midfielders: Vampeta (Inter Milan), Cesar Sampaio (Deportivo Coruna), Mineiro (Ponte Preta), Juninho Pernambucano (Vasco da Gama), Juninho Paulista (Vasco da Gama), Rivaldo (Barcelona).

Forwards: Franca (Sao Paulo), Marques (Atletico Mineiro), Romario (Vasco da Gama), Adriano (Flamengo).

Italian players found guilty of match-fixing

The Italian Football Federation said last week it had found eight First and Second Division players guilty of match-fixing.

Three were from Serie A side Atalanta Bergamo and the other five play for Serie B side Pistoiese.

Punishments for the players — Giacomo Banchelli, Cristiano Doni and Sebastiano Siviglia (all Atalanta Bergamo) and Alfredo Aglietti, Massimiliano Allegri, Daniele Amerini, Gianluca Lillo and Girolamo Bizzarri (all Pistoiese) — will be decided later.

The charges related to an Italian Cup first round tie between the two sides in Bergamo on August 20 which ended 1-1.

Atalanta scored at the end of the first half and Pistoiese equalised three minutes from time. Atalanta qualified for the second round.

Snai, which organises betting on Italian football, said later it had registered suspiciously heavy betting on the result and many of the bets were for a 1-0 halftime score and a fulltime score of 1-1.

Both clubs and their players denied any wrongdoing but FIGC launched an inquiry.

The Federation said in a statement it had found the eight players guilty "in collaboration with each other and with other club members who have not been identified" of contriving to fix the match.

It said it had passed the case to the Milan-based Football League which will impose sentence.

The case is the biggest of its kind in Italy for years.

Tuscan side Empoli were docked two points for attempted match-fixing following a probe into a game at Sampdoria in 1998.

Serie A sides Venezia and Bari were probed on similar suspicions in early 1999 but were cleared of wrong doing.

Udinese trio banned due to false passports

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said last week it had suspended three Udinese players, and expelled two of them, after they were found to have false passports.

The FIGC said in a statement the three players, Brazilians Jorginho and Warley, and Paraguayan teenager Alejandro Da Silva, would not be allowed to play for any club in Italy.

Italian magistrates are investigating how the players managed to sign for Udinese as EU players on fake Portuguese passports. But the FIGC said it had decided to act now, before the judicial probe had been completed.

"The first two players (Jorginho and Alejandro Da Silva) have had their passports seized and have been expelled from Italy while the third (Warley), currently on loan to Brazilian club Gremio, has also had his passport confiscated," the statement said.

Italian soccer rules limit teams to five non-European Union (EU) players in their squad of whom only three can be fielded at the same time.

Many South Americans play in Italy as "EU players" after gaining dual nationality on the basis of family ancestry.

Collymore could face FA rap

Bradford City's Stan Collymore could face a disrepute charge from the Football Association for his goal celebrations during the 1-1 draw against Leeds United according to newspaper reports.

Collymore, making his debut for the Yorkshire club, scored after 21 minutes with a spectacular overhead kick. He then ran over to the Leeds fans to celebrate and stewards were left trying to prevent angry United fans spilling onto the pitch.

Referee Stephen Lodge took no action at the time but newspaper reports say he will include the incident in his match report.

FA compliance officer Graham Bean was also at Bradford's Valley Parade ground for the match.

Bradford manager Chris Hutchings is quoted in *The Mirror* as saying "I'm not going to knock his celebration. There was nothing in it. He was just delighted to have scored a brilliant goal."

Collymore, who has upset coaches at several clubs during his troubled career, was signed from Leicester City recently.

The controversial striker is due to appear before the FA for allegedly stamping on Everton's Paul Gascoigne while playing for Leicester against Everton in September.

Torino sack Simoni

Italian Serie B Torino sacked coach Gigi Simoni last week after a 3-1 defeat at Piacenza left them close to the relegation zone.

Torino president Attilio Romero told a news conference Simoni would be replaced by youth team coach Giancarlo Camolese.

Simoni, who had a turbulent spell at Inter Milan between 1997-98, took over at Torino following their slide into Serie B at the end of last season.

The Turin side, one of the fallen giants of Italian football, have won just two of their eight league matches this season and have been knocked out of the Italian Cup.

WORLD SERIE A

BARI 0 PARMA 1

A Patrick Mboma header three minutes from time gave Parma an important away victory at Bari.

Bari have yet to win a game and are second from bottom with two points. Parma have recovered from a shaky start with a second straight win.

BRESCIA 2 AS ROMA 4

A second half hat-trick by Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta completed a fine AS Roma recovery at Brescia.

With five matches gone, Batistuta became Serie A's top scorer with six goals. AS Roma moved second, one point behind Udinese.

AC MILAN 3 ATALANTA 3

Atalanta continued their surprise start to the season with a draw at AC Milan but were disappointed to have lost a 3-1 lead.

Cristiano Doni scored twice and Fausto Rossini added a header to give Atalanta a 3-1 advantage at the break before AC Milan mounted a comeback.

Oliver Bierhoff cut the lead and a penalty by Andriy Shevchenko levelled the score as AC Milan avoided losing their third match of the season. Atalanta remained unbeaten.

NAPOLI 1 VICENZA 2

Vicenza earned their second successive victory by beating bottom side Napoli.

Two goals by newly-acquired, Naples-born striker Vincenzo Sommese gave Vicenza the win, leaving Napoli with just one point from five matches.

REGGINA 0 JUVENTUS 2

Two goals by French international David Trezeguet gave Juventus victory at Reggina.

Goalkeeper Massimo Taibi's blunder in the closing moments of the first half paved the way for Trezeguet to fire home a shot from the edge of the box to give Juve the lead.

Trezeguet struck again in the second half, heading home an Alessio Tacchinardi free kick.

UDINESE 2 LECCE 0

For the first time in the club's 104-year history, Udinese stand alone at the top of Serie A.

Argentine striker Roberto Sosa scored his fourth of the season and Massimo Margiotta added the second as Udinese won at home against Lecce to pull one point clear of second-placed AS Roma.

VERONA 2 INTER MILAN 2

Inter fell behind to a 15th minute goal from Verona's Emiliano Bonazzoli but levelled 11 minutes later through Francisco Farinos.

Verona edged back in front in the 43rd minute thanks to a superb strike from Vincenzo Italiano, but the midfielder was instantly dismissed after he picked up a second yellow card for excessive goal celebrations.

With Verona down to 10 men for the entire second half, Hakan Sukur found the equaliser in the 81st.

AC Milan midfielder Demetrio Albertini tackles Atalanta striker Nicola Ventola during their 3-3 draw in Milan.

FIORENTINA 3 PERUGIA 4

Greek striker Zisis Vryzas led Perugia to a dramatic win at struggling Fiorentina with a hat-trick.

Fiorentina went ahead through Angelo Di Livio in the 22nd minute before Vryzas equalised and then a Luca Saudati penalty put the visitors ahead.

Brazilian Leandro equalised for Fiorentina but Vryzas struck twice before Leandro's second gave Fiorentina some hope.

LAZIO 2 BOLOGNA 0

Czech Pavel Nedved scored after 10 minutes and Argentine international Hernan Crespo added a second after the break to give champions Lazio a comfortable victory.

After a stuttering start Lazio have now won two consecutive games and moved to fourth.

Lazio's striker Marcelo Salas is tripped by Bologna's Luis Barroso Oliveira during their Serie A soccer match at Rome's Olympic Stadium.

Roma's Gabriel Batistuta waves at the fans after scoring a hat-trick in his team's 4-2 defeat of Brescia.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

It is interesting to take a brief look at the level of media coverage of the Serie A in Italy especially in light of our struggles here in Australia to get decent television coverage.

In Italy, every major television channel has some form of soccer programme. There are preview shows, review shows and live coverage on pay-per-view.

Some programmes are part of Italian culture; for instance a show called "90th Minute" on Rai One (the largest television channel in Italy) on Sunday nights, is the top rating review show on soccer and it is on at about 6.00 PM.

Other programmes are also high-rating shows on Sunday evening - in fact, the review shows on soccer go well into the early hours on Monday morning!

Television is saturated with coverage and other nights such as Friday, Saturday and Monday also have a plethora of soccer programmes.

The only problem in Italy is free-to-air live coverage of the Serie A and this doesn't exist. All live coverage is on pay television, which is often not accessible, to many.

Radio provides a live coverage of all Serie A matches and it is also broadcast to a worldwide audience, including Australia, through the Rai International network.

You can rest assured that every time there is a match on, it will be covered on radio. This includes all European Cup fixtures as well involving Italian teams.

Newspaper coverage is also at saturation point. All the major dailies such as "La Repubblica", "Il Corriere della Sera" and "Il Messaggero" have outstanding coverage - many pages dedicated to football.

However, there is a lot more! There are three daily papers, "La Gazzetta dello Sport"; "Il Corriere dello Sport" and "Tuttosport", entirely dedicated to sport that, in Italy, is basically three-quarters of the paper dedicated to football.

In fact "La Gazzetta", based in Milan, is the famous pink broadsheet that is available everywhere and is the largest selling of all newspapers in Italy!

In terms of magazines there are far too many to mention. However, the weekly full-colour and glossy "Guerin Sportivo", is part of Italian folklore and is generally regarded as the premier football publication.

Now with all that coverage, it is little wonder that the Serie A is so popular in Italy and hence the world. The information received by the public is so immense and constant, that it often appears that no other sport exists except for when a Ferrari is racing in a Grand Prix.

★★★★

It is hard to go past this week and not mention the appointment of Sven Goran Eriksson as England coach and the repercussions for Lazio in Italy.

It was very interesting watching a tape of Eriksson in action the other day. In the morning, he attended a press conference in London conversing perfectly in English and that same afternoon, he was back in Rome at another press conference conversing perfectly in Italian!

Until last year in the Serie A, when Lazio won the Scudetto, he had a reputation for being the coach that couldn't win anything major. His teams would only get so far and then that would be it.

Eriksson had stints at Sampdoria and Roma before taking over at Lazio. He was one of the very few coaches (like Zdenek Zeman, currently at Napoli) to have coached both at Roma and Lazio who are bitter rivals.

Amongst the players he has a lot of respect but mainly because he is not a strict disciplinarian, I was told recently by a former Lazio player who is now a television commentator. He is totally the opposite of say of a Zeman, Giovanni Trapattoni or Fabio Capello.

Rumours abound that former great player, Roberto Mancini, who is currently Eriksson's assistant, will replace Eriksson next year at Lazio. However, this would appear to be a strange choice because Mancini who only retired last year, has no major coaching experience and only joined Lazio late in his career after spending the bulk of it at Sampdoria.

WORLD PREMIER LEAGUE

CHARLTON 2 BRADFORD 0

Goals from Jonatan Johansson and Graham Stuart saw Charlton take a 2-0 lead after only 16 minutes against a Bradford side without new signing Stan Collymore.

Last weekend's debut goalscorer was suffering from wisdom teeth trouble. City rounded off a miserable afternoon by having Stuart McCall sent off in the 89th minute. Charlton stayed unbeaten at home this season.

COVENTRY 1 MAN UTD 2

United opened the scoring in the 27th minute when David Beckham broke down the right, whipped the ball over and Andy Cole exploited some woeful marking to volley into the bottom right-hand corner.

Beckham followed up with his sixth of the season 10 minutes later, curling a free kick through the City wall and under goalkeeper Chris Kirkland. Ysrael Zuniga scrambled a consolation goal for City from point-blank range in the 64th minute.

MAN. CITY 0 LEICESTER 1

Manchester City had the better of a scrappy first half, but the tables were turned in the second, with Robbie Savage scoring the Foxes' winner in the 56th minute and moving Leicester up to third.

MIDDLESBROUGH 0 ARSENAL 1

Arsenal took the lead after Boro goalkeeper Mark Crossley was sent off for bringing down Swede Patrik Ljungberg in the area. French striker Thierry Henry tucked home the penalty in the 25th minute, sending substitute keeper Marlon Beresford the wrong way for his ninth league goal in eight games.

Arsenal missed a string of second-half chances to improve the scoreline, with Henry hitting the post in the final minutes.

NEWCASTLE UTD 2 IPSWICH TOWN 1

Marcus Stewart gave Ipswich a 13th minute lead but former England captain Alan Shearer, who scored twice in Newcastle's midweek League Cup win over Bradford City, squeezed between two defenders to fire home a 22nd minute equaliser.

Shearer, brought down by Ipswich defender Mark Venus in the penalty area, went on to convert the resulting spot kick in the 67th minute to take all three points.

SOUTHAMPTON 3 CHELSEA 2

James Beattie swooped at the far post for Southampton in the third minute and the hosts had no fewer than three penalty appeals rejected before Wayne Bridge sent the ball into the Chelsea area and Jo Tessem bundled it home from inside the six-metre box in the 37th minute.

Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet flicked the ball on for Dennis Wise to pull one back for Chelsea in the 69th minute and Poyet equalised nine minutes later from a Gianfranco Zola cross. But Beattie snatched a 90th minute winner with a searing drive.

David Beckham does it again with this fantastic free kick, which turned out to be the difference between United and Coventry at Highfield Road.

Leeds United and Australian Mark Viduka celebrates after single handedly sinking Liverpool with an individual four-goal haul.

TOTTENHAM 2 SUNDERLAND 1

Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips sent a first-half penalty over the bar after Spurs' Swiss defender Ramon Vega handled.

They paid the price in the 43rd minute when Tim Sherwood rifled home a shot from a partially cleared corner. Don Hutchison equalised for Sunderland, heading home a free kick in the 63rd minute.

But Sherwood turned goalmaker in the 79th minute, slotting the ball straight down the middle for Chris Armstrong to run on and score.

Spurs held on despite the 88th minute dismissal of Ben Thatcher.

LEEDS UTD 4 LIVERPOOL 3

Liverpool threw the match away after headers from Sami Hyypia and Christian Ziege gave them a 2-0 lead after only 18 minutes.

Leeds striker Mark Viduka drove in the first of four goals in the 24th minute and equalised with a fine header. Vladimir Smicer restored Liverpool's lead in the 61st minute but a superb solo effort from Viduka and a deft chip from the Australian two minutes after that sealed victory.

EVERTON 0 ASTON VILLA 1

Everton's third home defeat of the season came courtesy of a 30-metre lob by Paul Merson in the last minute.

Everton had created the better chances in a poor game but Villa keeper David James was in good form despite sustaining a horrible-looking nose injury.

But Merson's shot, which embarrassed Everton keeper Paul Gerrard, gave Villa a win they barely deserved but which took them up to fifth place.

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

The speculation is over, Sven-Goran Eriksson has been chosen to try and lead England out of the footballing wilderness and into the promised land. You can be sure that he will have to go through an arduous journey (although it shouldn't take 40 years) if he is going to get there.

Enough of the ordinary biblical references. Has there been such a decision in the English game of late that has led to such divided opinions?

After England lost the World Cup qualifier to Germany at Wembley, the media, the punters and more than likely the players, almost unanimously agreed that the likeable Keegan was right to resign. They all pretty much wanted the same man to replace him as well; former boss Terry Venables.

Yet Eriksson's appointment has split the footballing community down the middle.

Some people think the decision was inevitable and a positive step forward whilst others believe it amounts to treason and that it will cause irrevocable damage to the English game.

There is definitely both pro's and con's about the Swede getting England's top job but ultimately he will be assessed, as all managers should be, by results on the field. Unfortunately for him, media scrutiny will be intense and he may not receive as much time and support as a locally born gaffer would.

Those who support the appointment believe the time has come for English football to bite the bullet and accept help from abroad. Eriksson's record at club level is impressive, he speaks good English and there is really no current English Premier League manager that is ready to take on such a difficult job.

The Lazio manager has admitted that he does not know a great deal about English football but this could well be a good thing. He will bring in new ideas and won't deem it necessary to pick David Seaman, Paul Ince or Phil Neville.

Eriksson's detractors are certain that his club commitments will get in the way, that decades of tradition are being discarded and that he is untrustworthy because he failed to honour an agreement with Blackburn a few years ago.

"What! A Swede?" they have bellowed. Sure, it is a small country that is known for it's safe cars, mass produced DIY furniture and Nina Persson, the lead singer of The Cardigans (You may not know her, but believe me she is one of Sweden's finest assets). They have done alright on the football front as well.

In any case, it is a great challenge for the 52-year-old and a natural progression in his career. He has achieved a great deal in his years as a manager so why shouldn't he back himself and try and rejuvenate one of world football's biggest underachievers.

Sweden, Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland (albeit with a bunch of Scousers) have all achieved their best results under foriegn managers. They mightn't have won anything but they certainly gave their fans plenty to cheer about. England have won diddly squat since the 1966 World Cup meaning two generations of football fans have grown up having never witnessed any success.

Hell they haven't even made a final. This is pretty unacceptable for a country that boasts one of the best leagues of the world and is where the game originated.

Football is the world game and time's change. Maybe it is time to lose the nationalistic rhetoric and, dare I say it, drop the superiority complex and one never knows, maybe success is just around the corner. And if it's not? So what, start again. If a country has spent 34 years in the desert, what's another six on the way to the promised land.

It is interesting to think of the uncertainty that Eriksson's appointment has caused in England and compare it to the situation here in Australia. England had never considered hiring a foreign manager whilst for years Australia was scared not to. Like I said, times change. Speaking of Aussies and England, how about that Viduka lad!

The job nobody wanted goes to a foreigner

SWEDE SUCCESS FOR SVEN

England spark controversy with Eriksson appointment

England's decision not to buy British and appoint the national team's first foreign coach in Swede Sven Goran Eriksson will be the source of heated arguments in the country's clubs and pubs for a long time.

But English soccer chiefs have realised they cannot afford to be insular if they want to return to the days of 1966 when they won the World Cup and were feared around the globe.

The move to sign Lazio coach Eriksson was described as "embarrassing" and "a terrible mistake" by some respected football figures.

But England have not won anything since their victory over the Germans in the 1966 World Cup final at Wembley and are currently behind the likes of Norway and Paraguay in the world rankings.

"We have to stop thinking that everything is about what happens here in England," English Football Association (FA) chief executive Adam Crozier said.

"Football is a world game and we have to get ourselves back from a position of not competing into the frame where we actually can compete.

"To do that we have got to move on. People have to stop thinking about the way it's always been because that is not going to get us anywhere."

The 52-year-old Eriksson will leave Lazio at the end of the season and take up a five-year deal from July until the end of the 2006 World Cup.

His long-term appointment is arguably the most controversial decision in FA history.

Some had favoured re-appointing England's Euro 96 coach Terry Venables or going for another Englishman in former Switzerland boss Roy Hodgson.

Former defender Jack Charlton, a member of England's World Cup-winning team, said the FA was making "a terrible mistake".

His brother Bobby Charlton, who played 106 times for his country, had been quoted last month as saying that it would be an insult to national pride for a non-Englishman to get the job.

Gordon Taylor, chairman of the professional players union, the PFA, was fierce in his criticism.

"It's normally what a third world country or a relatively new football country would do, think of bringing in a foreign coach to improve the status," he said.

"But I would not expect it of England, not with our tradition and I think it's really a betrayal of our heritage."

He added: "It's quite embarrassing to the FA who have had a coaching programme in place for the last 40 years, that they can't consider that any product of that system is good enough to manage the international team."

The premier league has been dominated by non-English coaches in recent seasons. Reigning champions Manchester United are coached by Scotsman Alex Ferguson and title challengers Arsenal have the respected Frenchman Arsene Wenger in charge.

FA officials said they had not considered Wenger or Ferguson because they were not available. Crozier said Eriksson, who has won league titles in Portugal, Sweden and Italy, was England's first choice.

"We have to take a leap forward. Right at the top of the list was sustained success. Sven has had that wherever he's been," he said.

Asked about the scepticism, Crozier added: "Whenever you change anything, you always have people who want things to stay as they are.

"Change is uncomfortable. Change hurts. It doesn't make you feel good when it is happening. But afterwards when you look back you say 'Boy, are you glad you did it.'"

Eriksson is likely to encounter fierce media criticism if he fails, especially because of the controversy of his appointment. But Crozier said the Swede had the right character for the job.

"He is a very calm and cool individual. He has lived with huge, huge pressures. He is very used to that, very calm about that," he said.

"He has the respect of coaches across the world. As a professor of football across the world, he is very aware of what goes on here. He can bring a whole new dimension to our football."

Arsenal and FA chief David Dein added: "He has extraordinary good knowledge of world football and knows how to deal with top players. He is used to players who earn large sums of money. He is not fazed by the big superstar element.

"It's a brave new world. England's stock is not on the increase. We are dropping in the world rankings. We need to stop that decline."

Sven-Goran Eriksson: A first for England.

Swedes believe Eriksson is taking soccer's toughest job

Sven-Goran Eriksson is taking on the world's toughest job Swedish newspapers said.

"Bobby Robson was persecuted for his white hair; Glen Hoddle for his beliefs, Terry Venables for his business dealings, and Graham Taylor for just about everything."

"Welcome to the world's toughest job, Svennis," the daily *Aftonbladet* said, referring to the public pressure on the England manager to produce results.

But Svennis, the name by which the boy from Torsby in northern Sweden is affectionately known, probably has the right mentality after successfully managing IFK Gothenburg, Benfica, Roma, Fiorentina, Benfica, Sampdoria and Lazio.

"He has come out on top everywhere," said Borje Andersson, trainer of Norwegian club Raufoss and a friend of Eriksson's for many years.

"Svennis takes challenges the right way. He has an enormous knowledge of soccer, he's exactly the same person he was at his first club Degerfors even though he's bigger than the Pope now," Andersson said.

Reine Almqvist, trainer of Landskrona in Sweden who regularly swaps ideas with Eriksson, said: "I'm not surprised. It's a natural next step in his career. The pressure will be tremendous but it is everywhere.

"It's just as hard at Lazio."

Swedish soccer professionals play abroad in the German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish leagues but their first interest has always been the game in England.

"It's a milestone in Swedish history, a Swede being appointed trainer of England," columnist Mats Olsson wrote in the daily *Expressen*.

"Even if there are bigger tasks in the world of football, there's nothing that's so prestigious, charged, important and probably so wonderful as being in charge of England."

Eriksson adopted an English style of play and introduced it at Gothenburg and the rest of his clubs, refining the idea which he picked up from Sweden-based coaches Bob Houghton and Roy Hodgson, *Expressen* recalled.

FACTFILE

Following is factfile on Sven Goran Eriksson.

February 5, 1948 - Born in Torsby, Sweden.

1975 - Knee injury brings an undistinguished playing career as a right back for Swedish second division side Karlskoga to an abrupt end.

1976 - Appointed coach of Swedish third division Degerfors and guides them to the top flight within three years.

1980-82 - Joins IFK Gothenburg. Coaches them to one Swedish championship, two domestic cup titles and the 1982 UEFA Cup.

1982-84 - Coaches Benfica to two championships and a cup title in just two seasons.

1984-85 - Arrives in Italy and joins AS Roma. Guides them to seventh place in his first season.

1985-86 - Coaches Roma to within sight of the league title but his side lose 3-2 at home to relegated Lecce on the penultimate day of the season and concede the crown to Juventus by two points. Eriksson has to settle for the 1986 Italian Cup title instead.

May 4, 1987 - Resigns from Roma.

1987-1989 - At Fiorentina. Coaches them to eighth and seventh place finishes in Serie A.

1989-1991 - Returns to Benfica and guides them to the 1990 European Cup final and the 1991 league title.

1991-1996 - Back in Italy with Sampdoria but brings them only Italian Cup title in five years at the helm.

1997-1998 - Arrives at Lazio and coaches them to the Italian Cup in his first season in charge. Lazio briefly challenge for the league before fading in the run-in. They are beaten 3-0 by Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup final.

1998-1999 - Gives Lazio their first European trophy — the Cup Winners' Cup. They beat Mallorca in the final in Birmingham. But Lazio throw away a six-point lead at the top of Serie A in the spring and concede the title to AC Milan by a single point on the last day of the season.

1999-2000 - Coaches Lazio to the league and cup double, giving the Rome side only the second "scudetto" in their history and their first in 26 years. Lazio trail Juventus by nine points with seven matches to play but claw back the deficit and win the title on a dramatic final day of the season.

Oct 2000 - Linked with England job when Kevin Keegan resigns following 1-0 defeat by Germany at Wembley. Repeatedly pledges to fulfil his contract until July 2001.

Oct 30 - English FA say they are negotiating with Eriksson to become the manager of England's national team.

WORLD

SHERINGHAM WANTS TO SAY

Manchester United's top striker Teddy Sheringham is looking for a new contract of up to two years, the club said.

The 34-year-old England forward, whose current contract expires in May, scored a hat-trick in the recent 5-0 Premier League victory over Southampton, taking his goal tally to 11 this season.

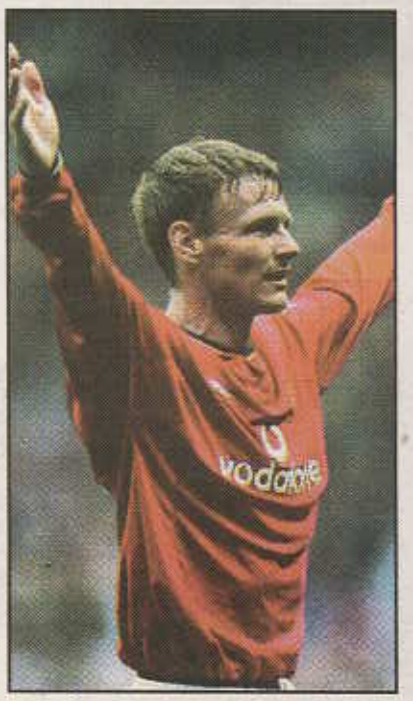
United's official Web site said: "Teddy Sheringham has decided to strike while the iron is hot and seek another extension to his Old Trafford career."

It added: "(He) understandably feels that now is the time to negotiate a new one-year or even two-year deal with the club."

Sheringham's agent Barry Nevill told the Web site: "Teddy is probably showing the Manchester United fans how good he really is now."

Nevill was quoted in the *Daily Mirror* as saying: "Teddy would be very interested in signing a new contract, particularly if it were for two years.

"I spoke to (United chief executive) Peter Kenyon and so the ball is really with United," Nevill said.



Teddy Sheringham: Keen to stay at United.

CHILAVERT SIGNS FOR STRASBOURG

French club Strasbourg have signed Paraguayan international goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert on a 2-year contract.

Chilavert has been in Paris for the past few days discussing the deal with club officials and eventually signed for Strasbourg after passing a medical.

The 35-year-old keeper joins the French club from Argentine outfit Velez Sarsfield for a fee believed to be around the £2.5million mark ($6.25m).

Strasbourg are second from bottom in Le Championnat and have conceded a record 30 goals in 13 matches this season.

Strasbourg new signing Jose Luis Chilavert (left) unveils his new jersey with club president Patrick Proisy (centre) and trainer Daniel Leroy.

And despite losing eight of their 13 league games this season Chilavert is not worried. 'Those who are successful are those who take on big challenges,' He said.

'I'm completely dedicated to my work and hope I can do well here.'

Despite being a goalkeeper Chilavert, nicknamed 'Chilagoal', has scored more than 50 goals in his career, mainly from dead-ball situations, and club president Patrick Proissy hopes that he will bring a different dimension to the team.

CASCARINO CLEARED AFTER IRISH SHAM

FIFA decided last week that it would take no action against ineligible former Republic of Ireland international Tony Cascarino who gained 88 international caps.

The English born striker originally qualified to play because of his Irish grandfather, but revealed that his mother told him in 1996 that she was adopted and therefore no blood relative to the grandfather after all.

'The whole incident looks like a 'so what?' situation,' FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said.

'It's a thing of the past now. There's no need for us to go back into it,' he added.

Cascarino, the most capped player in Ireland's football history, said in his new book: 'I didn't qualify for Ireland. I was a fraud. A fake Irishman.'

By the time Cascarino had discovered the mistake an application for an Irish passport was about to be completed and he decided to keep quiet about the fact he had no real Irish roots. The striker went on to win a further 24 caps for his country.

FIFA's Herren said that Cascarino had been awarded his passport and as such the Football Association of Ireland had been right to regard him as eligible to play for them.

Tony Cascarino: The Former Irish international has been cleared by FIFA after revealing he has no Irish heritage.

TROUBLED MARSEILLE OFFER CANTONA TOP JOB

Struggling French giants Olympique Marseille are poised to recruit the enigmatic Eric Cantona according to the French media.

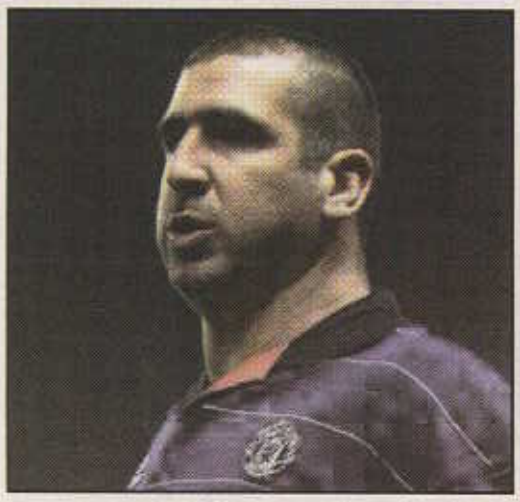
The 34-year-old Frenchman retired as a player from Manchester United in 1997 and is thought to be very interested in taking over the position of manager, held by Eric di Meco, or director of football, held by Marcel Dib.

Marseille are fifth from bottom in the French League and are in danger of relegation for the second successive season.

"Cantona taking over from Di Meco is one of the scenarios being considered — but it is not the only one," said a senior club official.

Di Meco has been criticised regarding Marseille's purchasing policy this season and is at odds with club president Yves Marchand.

It is believed the two men are unable to work together and Di Meco has been jeered by fans for signing disappointing players including Brazilian duo Marcelinho and Adriano.



Eric Cantona: The flamboyant Frenchman may well be ready to take over the coaching reins at Marseille.

Cantona, who was born in Marseille and spent two spells with the club, met with majority shareholder Robert Louis-Dreyfus and was offered the job.

However, Cantona is reported to be seeking insurances regarding spending power and decision making factors before giving a final answer.

Cantona played 45 times for France, scoring 20 goals, and played for Auxerre, Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Nimes, Leeds United and Manchester United.

He was famously banned for a 'kung fu' kick on a Crystal Palace fan when playing for Manchester United but went on to win four Premiership titles and two FA cup medals with the club. The extravert forward also won two league titles in France.

He has recently been playing beach football and carving a career as an actor.

DUGARRY THREATENS TO QUIT FRENCH FOOTBALL

Bordeaux's French international striker Cristophe Dugarry dramatically threatened to quit French league football last week.

Dugarry feels that he is being unfairly treated by referees in Le Championnat and was extremely unhappy with his sending off in the 2-1 victory over Paris St Germain at the weekend.

Not only do the officials annoy the Frenchman but he has also had enough of the jeering and whistling by the fans.

'I'm not looking for favours but I don't think I am getting a fair deal at the moment.

'I'm thinking seriously about leaving France — and I don't like the reasons for it.'

The striker returned to France with Marseille in 1997 from Barcelona and joined Bordeaux for a second time before the start of this season.

Unsurprisingly Dugarry was jeered particularly badly upon his return to Olympique Marseille.

Cristophe Dugarry: Feels he has been unfairly treated by referees.

WORLD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Spartak Moscow	2	Bayer Leverkusen	0
Sporting	2	Real Madrid	2
Real Madrid	1	Spartak Moscow	0
Bayer Leverkusen	3	Sporting	2
Bayer Leverkusen	2	Real Madrid	3
Spartak Moscow	3	Sporting	1
Real Madrid	5	Bayer Leverkusen	3
Sporting Lisbon	0	Spartak Moscow	3

Real Madrid 4 **Sporting Lisbon** 0
Guti 11
Savio 41
Morientes 61, 69

Bayer Leverkusen 1 **Spartak Moscow** 0
Ballack 52

Table

Real Madrid	5	4	1	0	15	7	13
Spartak Moscow	5	3	0	2	8	3	9
Bayer Leverkusen	5	2	0	3	9	12	6
Sporting Lisbon	5	0	1	4	5	15	1

Real Madrid and Spartak Moscow qualify for second group-match stage

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, November 7
Spartak Moscow v Real Madrid
Sporting Lisbon v Bayer Leverkusen

GROUP B

Sparta Prague	0	Arsenal	1
Shakhtar Donetsk	0	Lazio	3
Arsenal	3	Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Lazio	3	Sparta Prague	0
Arsenal	2	Lazio	0
Sparta Prague	3	Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Lazio	1	Arsenal	1
Shakhtar Donetsk	2	Spartak Prague	1

Lazio 5 **Shakhtar Donetsk** 1
Lopez 48, 68, 90,
Favalli 54, Veron 57
Vorobei 42

Arsenal 4 **Sparta Prague** 2
Parlour 5,
Lauren 7,
Dixon 35,
Kanu 51
Labant 40pen,
Rosicky 90

Table

Arsenal	5	4	1	0	11	5	13
Lazio	5	3	1	1	12	4	10
Sparta Prague	5	1	0	4	6	12	3
Shakhtar Donetsk	5	1	0	4	5	15	3

Arsenal and Lazio qualify for second group-match stage

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, November 7
Sparta Prague v Lazio
Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal

GROUP C

Valencia	2	Olympiakos	1
Olympique Lyon	3	Heerenveen	1
Heerenveen	0	Valencia	1
Olympiakos	2	Olympique Lyon	1
Olympiakos	2	Heerenveen	0
Valencia	1	Olympique Lyon	0
Heerenveen	1	Olympiakos	0
Olympique Lyon	1	Valencia	2

Heerenveen 0 **Olympique Lyon** 2
Malbranque 68,
Mariet 78

Olympiakos 1 **Valencia** 0
Djordjevic 65pen

Table

Valencia	5	4	0	1	6	3	12
Olympiakos	5	3	0	2	6	4	9
Olympique Lyon	5	2	0	3	7	6	6
Heerenveen	5	1	0	4	2	8	3

Valencia qualify for second group-match stage

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, November 7
Valencia v Heerenveen
Olympique Lyon v Olympiakos

GROUP D

Galatasaray	3	Monaco	2
Rangers	5	Sturm Graz	0
Sturm Graz	3	Galatasaray	0
Monaco	0	Rangers	1
Monaco	5	Sturm Graz	0
Galatasaray	3	Rangers	2
Rangers	0	Galatasaray	0
Sturm Graz	2	Monaco	0

Monaco 4 **Galatasaray** 2
Contreras 6,
Bonnal 19,
Simone 22,
Nonda 26
Unsal 24,
Bulent 63

Sturm Graz 2 **Rangers** 0
Yuran 20,
Prilasnig 90

Table

Sturm Graz	5	3	0	2	7	10	9
Galatasaray	5	2	1	2	8	11	7
Rangers	5	2	1	2	8	5	7
Monaco	5	2	0	3	11	8	6

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, November 7
Galatasaray v Sturm Graz
Rangers v Monaco

GROUP E

Hamburg SV	4	Juventus	4
Panathinaikos	1	Deportivo Coruna	1
Juventus	2	Panathinaikos	1
Deportivo Coruna	2	Hamburg SV	1
Juventus	0	Deportivo Coruna	0
Hamburg SV	0	Panathinaikos	1
Deportivo Coruna	1	Juventus	1
Panathinaikos	0	Hamburg SV	0

Juventus 1 **Hamburg SV** 3
Kovacevic 56
Praeger 24,
Yeboah 48,
Panadic 62

Deportivo Coruna 1 **Panathinaikos** 0
Pandiani 82

Table

Deportivo Coruna	5	2	3	0	5	3	9
Juventus	5	1	3	1	8	9	6
Panathinaikos	5	1	2	2	3	4	5
Hamburg SV	5	1	2	2	8	8	5

Deportivo Coruna qualify for second group-match stage

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, November 8
Hamburg SV v Deportivo Coruna
Panathinaikos v Juventus

GROUP F

Rosenborg	3	Paris St Germain	1
Helsingborg	1	Bayern Munich	3
Bayern Munich	3	Rosenborg	1
Paris St Germain	4	Helsingborg	1
Paris St Germanin	1	Bayern Munich	0
Rosenborg	6	Helsingborg	1
Bayern Munich	2	Paris St Germain	0
Helsingborg	2	Rosenborg	0

Paris St Germain 7 **Rosenborg** 2
Dehu 16,
Christian 25,
Anelka 35, 90,
Luccini 45, Leroy 76,
Robert 86pen
George 36, 38

Bayern Munich 0 **Helsingborg** 0

Table

Bayern Munich	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Paris St Germain	5	3	0	2	13	8	9
Rosenborg	5	2	0	3	12	14	6
Helsingborg	5	1	1	3	5	13	4

Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain qualify for second group-match stage

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, November 8
Rosenborg Trondheim v Bayern Munich
Helsingborg v Paris St Germain

GROUP G

PSV Eindhoven	2	Dynamo Kiev	1
Manchester United	5	Anderlecht	1
Anderlecht	1	PSV Eindhoven	0
Dynamo Kiev	0	Manchester Utd	0
Dynamo Kiev	4	Anderlecht	0
PSV Eindhoven	3	Manchester Utd	1
Anderlecht	4	Dynamo Kiev	2
Manchester United	3	PSV Eindhoven	1

Dynamo Kiev 0 **PSV Eindhoven** 1
Ooijer 45

Anderlecht 2 **Manchester Ud** 1
Radzinski 15, 33
Irwin 36pen

Table

PSV Eindhoven	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Anderlecht	5	3	0	2	8	12	9
Manchester United	5	2	1	2	10	7	7
Dynamo Kiev	5	1	1	3	7	7	4

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 24
Dynamo Kiev v PSV Eindhoven
Anderlecht v Manchester United

Wednesday, November 8
PSV Eindhoven v Anderlecht
Manchester United v Dynamo Kiev

GROUP H

Barcelona	4	Leeds United	0
AC Milan	4	Besiktas	1
Besiktas	3	Barcelona	0
Leeds United	1	AC Milan	0
Leeds United	6	Beskitas	0
Barcelona	0	AC Milan	2
Besiktas	0	Leeds United	0
AC Milan	3	Barcelona	3

Leeds United 1 **Barcelona** 1
Bowyer 5
Rivaldo 90

Besiktas 0 **AC Milan** 2
Shevchenko 39,
Mari 43

Table

AC Milan	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
Leeds United	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
Barcelona	5	1	2	2	8	9	5
Besiktas	5	1	1	3	4	12	4

AC Milan qualify for second group-match stage

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, November 8
Barcelona v Besiktas
AC Milan v Leeds United

SECOND ROUND

Four Groups of Four

QUARTER-FINAL

First Leg — April 3/4
Second Leg — April 17/18

SEMI-FINAL

First Leg — May 1/2
Second Leg — May 8/9

FINAL

Wednesday, May 23
In Milan

WORLD

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until November 15)

1	Brazil	71=	Estonia	140	Rwanda
2	France	71=	Lithuania	141	Tanzania
3	Argentina	73	Burkina Faso	142	Liechtenstein
4	Czech Republic	74	Kuwait	143	Ethiopia
5	Spain	75	Cuba	144	Andorra
6	Italy	76	Guinea	145=	Benin
7	Portugal	77	China PR	145=	Korea DPR
8	Germany	78	Bosnia-Herzegovina	145=	St Kitts & Nevis
9	Netherlands	79	Togo	148	Antigua and Barbuda
10	Yugoslavia	80	Algeria	149	Bangladesh
11	Mexico	81	Haiti	150	Sri Lanka
12	Norway	82	FYR Macedonia	151	Botswana
13	Romania	83	Namibia	152	Bermuda
14	Paraguay	84	Gabon	153	Maldives
15	England	85	Senegal	154	Gambia
16	Colombia	86	El Salvador	155	Dominican Rep
17	Croatia	87	Armenia	156	Cape Verde Is
18	United States	88	Congo	157	Mauritania
19	Chile	89=	Iraq	158	Yemen
20	Denmark	89=	Latvia	159	Dominica
21	Sweden	91	Northern Ireland	160	Chinese Taipei
22	South Africa	92	New Zealand	161	Cayman Islands
23=	Belgium	93	Mali	162	Chad
23=	Russia	94=	Albania	163	Eritrea
25	Scotland	94=	Liberia	164	Surinam
26=	Slovakia	96	Qatar	165	Laos
26=	Tunisia	97	Moldova	166	Nepal
28	Morocco	98	Syria	167	San Marino
29	Trinidad & Tobago	99	Barbados	168	Vanuatu
30	Turkey	100	Uganda	169	Palestine
31	Egypt	101	Jordan	170	Cook Islands
32=	Greece	102	Belarus	171	British Virgin Is.
32=	Slovenia	103	Indonesia	172	Samoa
34	Uruguay	104	Kenya	173=	Kyrgyzstan
35	Cameroon	105	Venezuela	173=	Netherlands Antilles
36	Poland	106	Malaysia	175	Guinea-Bissau
37	Israel	107	Singapore	176	Central African Rep.
38	Ireland Republic	108=	Mozambique	177	Niger
39	Austria	108=	Wales	178	Bahamas
40	Ukraine	110	Vietnam SR	179	Macao
41	Peru	111	Lebanon	180	Sao Tome e Principe
42	Jamaica	112	Oman	181	Cambodia
43	Iran	113	Azerbaijan	182	Guyana
44	Korea Republic	114	Malawi	183	Philippines
45	Zambia	115	Madagascar	184	Tonga
46=	Honduras	116	India	185	Aruba
46=	Saudi Arabia	117	Faroe Islands	186	Belize
48	Ghana	118	Mauritius	187	Equatorial Guinea
49	Japan	119	Kazakhstan	188	Seychelles
50	Cote d' Ivoire	119	Libya	189	Pakistan
51	Angola	121=	Malta	190	Nicaragua
52	Iceland	121=	Turkmenistan	191	PNG
53	Hungary	123	Panama	192	Djibouti
54	Costa Rica	124	Sierra Leone	193	Brunei Darussalam
55	Bulgaria	125	St Vincent/Gr	194	Puerto Rico
55	Finland	126	Hong Kong	195	Somalia
57	Nigeria	127	Myanmar	196=	US Virgin Islands
58	Ecuador	128=	St Lucia	196=	Mongolia
59	UAE	128=	Sudan	198	Anguilla
60	Guatemala	130	Burundi	199	Turks & Caicos Is
61	Switzerland	131	Tahiti	200=	Bhutan
62	Georgia	132	Solomon Islands	200=	Guam
63	Thailand	133	Bahrain	202	Montserrat
64	Canada	134	Swaziland	203	American Samoa
65	Bolivia	135	Luxemburg		
66	Uzbekistan	136=	Fiji		
67	Cyprus	136=	Lesotho		
68	Zimbabwe	138=	Grenada		
69	Congo DR	138=	Tajikistan		
70	**AUSTRALIA**				

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet to do not appear in the table.*

COCU STAYS AT BARCA

Barcelona's Dutch international midfielder Philip Cocu has agreed to extend his contract at the club for another two years.

The 30-year-old's existing contract with the Catalan club was due to expire at the end of June 2001.

"This gives both the club and myself peace of mind. It is clear we want to continue our relationship because we are very happy with how things have gone so far," said the player.

Cocu was brought to Barcelona from PSV Eindhoven in 1998 at the request of then coach Louis van Gaal.

He quickly became a fixture in the club's midfield and was a notable exclusion from the criticism levelled at van Gaal's other Dutch signings.

The recently elected Barcelona president Joan Gaspart has stated that one of his main priorities is to renew the contracts of key players like Cocu.

Philip Cocu: Staying put.

GROENKJAER JOINS CHELSEA

Ajax Amsterdam's Danish international Jesper Groenkjaer has completed his move to cosmopolitan English Premier League club Chelsea, the club confirmed.

The player's agent Vicenzo Morabito said the 23-year-old attacking left-sided midfielder moved for 7.5 million pounds ($18.75m).

But the player will not arrive at Stamford Bridge until January 1 because he is carrying a thigh strain.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchison said: "Because of Euro 2000 Jesper only had one week of holiday this summer. The present minor injury needs rest."

Groenkjaer played in all three of Denmark's matches in the finals in which they were beaten by eventual champions France (0-3), the Netherlands (0-3) and the Czech Republic (0-2).

He becomes the 23rd overseas player in Chelsea's 28-man first team squad.

BAYERN DISMISS HITZFELD SPECULATION

Bayern Munich commercial manager Uli Hoeness dismissed speculation last week that his club could release coach Ottmar Hitzfeld to make him available for the national side.

Hitzfeld has been tipped to take over from caretaker manager Rudi Voeller since the original appointee, Christoph Daum, was dropped last week for failing a drugs test.

The Bayern Munich coach said in a magazine report released over the weekend that he could imagine himself managing the German side one day but Hoeness poured scorn on the idea.

"Let me put a lid on all this right now — it's pure fantasy, there's nothing in it," Hoeness told *Die Welt* newspaper.

Hoeness said Hitzfeld still had some two years left on his contract with Bayern.

Conspiracy theories about a power struggle in German soccer have abounded since Hoeness referred to lurid allegations about Daum's personal life.

Although Hoeness insisted he did not make any allegations himself, Daum chose to take drugs tests, one of which proved positive.

Daum resigned as Bayer Leverkusen coach and was ruled out of the top job by the German Football Association (DFB).

Daum told *Bild* newspaper in a statement that the drugs test was faulty and that he would fight accusations against him. He is currently thought to be in the United States.

Investigators probing a cocaine dealing ring searched Daum's home and offices at Bayer Leverkusen and prosecutors in nearby Cologne said they were considering whether there was evidence to bring charges against him for possession.

Ottmar Hitzfeld: Rumours.

Daum was due to take over from Voeller as Germany head coach next year. Pressure is mounting on Voeller, who has guided the Germans to three victories in as many matches, to stay on after his contract expires next May 31.

ROA TO HAVE SURGERY

Real Mallorca's Argentine goalkeeper Carlos Roa will undergo surgery on his injured shoulder next week and will be out of action for at least two months, the club said last week.

Roa has not played since the beginning of October after injuring himself in training. Doctors recommended surgery because of continuing instability in his shoulder joint.

The former Argentine international, a Seventh Day Adventist whose religious beliefs prevent him from playing or training on Saturdays before sunset, returned to the Balearic island club at the beginning of this season.

During his previous spell at the club he was the top goalkeeper in Spain, conceding just 29 goals in 35 games and helping Real Mallorca to third place in the league in the 1998-1999 season.

He had retired from soccer in order to dedicate himself to religious work but subsequently decided he could reconcile his beliefs with life as a professional footballer.

Gaspart admits rushing pre-season transfers

Joan Gaspart: Rushed signings admitted.

Barcelona president Joan Gaspart has admitted that the pre-season signings of Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit and Marc Overmars and Valencia's Gerard were rushed operations.

The trio, who cost the club some $100 million, were signed after Portuguese international Luis Figo was poached by Real Madrid for a world-record $96.1 million in July.

"Time will tell if the money was well spent," Gaspart told reporters last week.

"The signings were somewhat rushed but that was due to circumstances that everyone is familiar with and the fact that it was the month of August.

"But I do believe they are great players. The coach has faith in them and in time they will show that they were good buys."

In an analysis of his first hundred days in control of the club, Gaspart said that he was already working on the squad for next season.

He confirmed that the contract of Dutch international midfielder Philip Cocu had been extended and said that he would be working on improving the existing contracts of rising stars Xavi and Carlos Puyol.

The two young players have been in impressive form since their return from the Sydney Olympics where they won a silver medal with the Spanish squad.

"We are going to do all we need to make sure they stay happy at the club," Gaspart said.

The Barcelona president admitted that failure to qualify for the second phase of the Champions League would be disastrous.

"Barcelona should be trying to win the competition every year. We have only won it once and I have to accept that if we don't win it again it will be a disaster."

Barcelona, third-placed in Group H, trail Leeds United by three points and AC Milan, who have already secured qualification, by five.

They need to beat Besiktas at the Camp Nou in their final game and then hope that Milan defeat Leeds.

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Barcelona buy chunks of Wembley history

Barcelona FC bought up chunks of Wembley history last week in a memorabilia auction which raised more than 25,000 pounds, organisers said.

A representative from the Spanish club bought one of the 39 steps up to the Royal Box, the players' tunnel and the goalposts from the England-Germany international on October 7, the last game to be played at England's most famous stadium.

Nick Dudley-Williams, a spokesman for organisers qxl.com, said: "Barcelona have a special interest in Wembley as it is the only place where they have won the European Cup, in 1992 against Sampdoria."

Wembley Stadium

England's World Cup-winning forward Geoff Hurst took home a photograph showing him and his team mates celebrating their 1966 win. Hurst paid 1,000 pounds for the photograph.

"To be involved playing for England in a World Cup final in front of a home crowd...the whole day was tension," Hurst told the auction room.

Most of the money raised from the auction will go towards helping build the new Wembley which could cost as much as 660 million pounds. Demolition is expected to begin in November and the first matches should be played in the new stadium in 2004.

Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton recalled how Wembley authorities put up a special warm-up board for his goalkeeping practice after he cracked the dressing room wall.

The signed board went for 550 pounds when an internet bidder beat the goalkeeper's own offer.

Shilton, who played in 51 internationals at the stadium, said of the auction: "It's great for the public as they get the chance to buy a piece of Wembley to keep forever. It's a very special place."

Wembley opened in 1923 and has played host to many different sporting events from greyhound racing to rugby league, from speedway to the 1948 Olympic Games. Mementos from all these events proved popular.

But it was Lot 30, an original painting of the 1923 FA Cup Final by Reginald Browne, that fetched the highest price of the evening — 3,400 pounds.

Romanian club president resigns after one day

Ion Craciunescu said last week he had resigned as president of Romanian First Division club Craiova after just one day in the post.

Craiova, 52, said the job was incompatible with his work as a UEFA observer.

"In my first day as Craiova president I realised that it would not be fair to be a UEFA observer for a European cup match abroad when my team are playing an important match at home," Craciunescu said.

PREMIER BOSSES WANTED EL TEL – REDKNAPP

West Ham United manager Harry Redknapp has admitted he feels 'sad' at the appointment of England's first foreign coach, Sven Goran Eriksson.

Redknapp, who is second only to Sir Alex Ferguson in Premiership experience with one club, said: 'I hope he comes over here and sees what terrific young players we have.

'But I think it's sad that we don't have an Englishman as our national coach. You can't tell me we have no one in this country capable of being in charge of England.

'The FA panel who appointed Eriksson haven't got the background. Ninety per cent of Premiership managers, including me, wanted Terry Venables.

Sven-Goran Eriksson: New England Manager.

'We get carried away with coaching and coaches. I have my coaching badges but they came out of a Cornflakes packet at the time.

'Of course, as a club manager, I will give Eriksson every help but I have yet to see a coach make a bad player into a good one.'

As speculation increased that Eriksson — who has agreed a five-year contract worth around £10 million ($25m) — could even be in place before Christmas, there was also news that his No two, fellow Swede Tord Grip, will begin his England duties almost immediately.

Grip, who will be Eriksson's equivalent of chief scout, will run the rule over as many of England's likely squad as he can over the forthcoming weeks, while England's first foreign coach is still involved at Lazio.

Harry Redknapp: Says 90 per cent of Premier League coaches wanted an English coach to take over the National team.

ESNAIDER TARGETED BY REAL ZARAGOZA

Real Zaragoza's president Alfonso Solans and new coach Luis Costa are trying to make Juventus' Argentinean striker Juan Eduardo Esnaider the manager's first signing.

"The Esnaider deal is a complicated matter but we are working on it and we hope we can sort everything out as we want," Solans said.

"Our aim is to get him as soon as possible so that he will be ready to play by December 15," he added.

That is the date that the Spanish transfer market reopens but it is likely that the Striker will join Real Zaragoza on loan until the end of the season.

The Argentinean has been out injured for most of the Serie A season and is struggling to get a consistent run in the Juventus first team.

Esnaider won the European Cup Winners Cup with Zaragoza during the 94/95 season and is held in high regard by the Spanish fans.

The Spanish club lie bottom of the Primera Liga and are without a win this season, taking just four points from seven games.

Luis Costa, appointed caretaker manager after the sacking of Juan Manuel Lillo earlier this month, will remain in charge until the end of the season.

Juan Esnaider: chased by Real Zaragoza.

Fans raise cash to save club

Troubled Scottish First Division club Airdrie were pulled bank from the brink of closure by their supporters who paid off a debt which had threatened to put the side out of business after 122 years.

The fans managed to raise the 115,000 pounds ($290,000) being demanded by the club's provisional liquidator to ensure Airdrie would continue playing.

Earlier director of football Steve Archibald, who took over in July, returned from training to find the liquidators had changed the locks at the club's New Broomfield Stadium.

Former Scotland international Archibald paid tribute to the fans for rescuing their team.

"The show goes on for the time being," said Archibald. "This shows how much this club means to the fans and the community of Airdrie."

Luckless Italian fan ditches fiancee

A hapless Italian fan has ditched his girlfriend just weeks before they were due to marry because he reckons she has an evil curse.

After a run of bad luck, including problems at work and the loss of his house keys, the 30-year-old Sicilian began to suspect his girlfriend might have something to do with it.

While the evidence was scant, the unnamed husband-to-be decided she must be bewitched after his favourite soccer team lost, the Giornale di Sicilia reported.

Watching on television as his team cruised to 1-0 victory, he was beside himself with rage when the opposition scored minutes from time the second his girlfriend walked into the room. He ordered her from the house.

Sobbing, she tried to come back to make amends only to see the opposition score again for an extra time victory the moment she opened the door.

The boyfriend, called the wedding and the whole relationship off.

Not so easily discarded, the jilted woman is suing her ex for "moral and material" damages, the paper said.

LEICESTER TO GET NEW STADIUM

Leicester City said last week they would develop a new 32,000-seater stadium to replace their home ground since 1891 at Filbert Street.

The club, currently fourth in the Premier League, also reported pre-tax profits of 0.6 million pounds ($1.5m) for the year to July 31, compared with a loss of 6.2 million pounds, ($15.5m) on turnover up nine percent.

"Central to our continued success will be a new stadium. We hope to increase and enhance the facilities for all our customers on a matchday and maximise the opportunities to generate income on matchdays," said chairman Rodney Walker.

Profits were boosted by the sale of players, including England striker Emile Heskey who joined Liverpool for 11 million pounds ($27.5m), which generated a net eight million pounds ($20m).

The club finished eighth in the premiership last season and had a strong cup run, winning the League Cup and reaching the fifth round of the FA Cup.

Leicester lost 3-0 to first division side Crystal Palace in the third round of the Worthington Cup last week.

Manager Peter Taylor replaced Martin O'Neill, who left to join Celtic, in June.

Leicester's shares were unchanged at 53p in early trade, which values the company at around 17.5 million pounds ($43.75m).

TV GUIDE

*** All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time**

TUESDAY NOV 7
English Premier League
Derby v West Ham (LIVE)
Fox Sports
6am — 9.30am

English Premier League
Derby v West Ham
Fox Sports
1pm —3pm

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm — 4.30pm

English Premier League
Derby v West Ham
Fox Sports
11pm —1am

NSL Highlights
Channel 7
12.10am — 1.10am
(Wednesday morning)

WEDNESDAY NOV 8
UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.30am — 8.45am

UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Teams TBA
Optus (ESPN)
8.45am — 11am

UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Teams TBA
Optus (ESPN)
3pm — 5pm

Soccer Central
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm — 8.30pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
8.30pm — 10pm

European Soccer Show
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
10pm — 11pm

THURSDAY NOV 9
UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.30am — 8.45am

UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Teams TBA
Optus (ESPN)
8.45am — 11am

GOL ESPN
Football Extra (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
11am — 11.30am

UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Teams TBA
Optus (ESPN)
3pm — 5pm

UEFA Champions League
Matchday Six
Man Utd v Dynamo Kiev
SBS TV
10.30pm — 12.30am

FRIDAY NOV 10
National Soccer League
Auckland vs Adelaide
Optus (C7 Sport 13)
7.30pm — 9.30pm

SATURDAY NOV 11
GOL ESPN
Football Extra
Optus (ESPN)
9.30am — 10.30am

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
11.30pm — 1pm

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports
1pm — 3pm

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm — 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm — 5.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
5.30pm — 6.30pm

English Premier League Preview
Fox Sports 2
6pm — 6.30pm

National Soccer League
Northern Spirit vs Newcastle
Optus (C7 Sport 13)
9.30pm — 11.30pm

Scottish Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
1.55am — 4am
(Sunday Morning)

English Premier League
Teams TBA
Fox Sports
3am — 5am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY NOV 12
Italian Serie A
Round Six
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.25am — 8.30am

Italian Serie A
SBS TV
10.30pm — 11.30pm

On The Ball
SBS TV
11.30pm — 12.30pm

English Premier League
Replay of Overnight match
Fox Sports 2
12pm — 2pm

National Soccer League
Sydney United vs Marconi (LIVE)
Optus (C7 Sport 13)
4pm — 6pm

English Premier League
Chelsea vs Leeds (LIVE)
Fox Sports
2am — 6am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY NOV 13
Italian Serie A
Round Six
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.25am — 8.30am

English Premier League
Chelsea vs Leeds
Fox Sports
1pm — 3pm

English Premier League
Highlights
Fox Sports 2
5pm — 6pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm — 8.30pm

English Premier League
Chelsea vs Leeds
Fox Sports
8.30pm — 10.30pm

Worthington Cup

Fowler ends goal drought with extra time winner

LIVERPOOL	2
CHELSEA	1

After extra time

Robbie Fowler scored his first goal for Liverpool since last December to put Chelsea out of the Worthington Cup in extra-time at Anfield.

The Liverpool skipper, who returned from a long-term injury last month, pounced in the 104th minute of this third-round tie after being put through by Patrik Berger.

Moments from the final whistle Liverpool's Emile Heskey, who had been booked earlier, and Chelsea's Winston Bogarde were sent off after clashing in the goalmouth. Liverpool's underfire defence had been caught out by the smallest player on the pitch as Gianfranco Zola headed Chelsea level.

After looking vulnerable in the early part of this season, Gerard Houllier's backline once more left themselves open to criticism by allowing Zola to rise unopposed to score in the 29th minute.

It was a break Chelsea scarcely deserved, but Liverpool, who went ahead through Danny Murphy, had only themselves to blame. Houllier promised 'only one or two' changes, but made six while Chelsea settled for just four new faces in their starting line-up.

It said everything about the competition's standing in the eyes of most leading Premiership sides, but it at least provided an opportunity for fringe players.

One of them was clearly in the mood to make the most of a rare starting appearance as Murphy fired Liverpool in front in the 11th minute.

Robbie Fowler: Celebrates with manager Gerard Houllier after scoring his first goal in almost 11 months to give Liverpool a 2-1 win over Chelsea at Anfield.

The danger looked to have passed when Fowler had a shot blocked near the Chelsea area. But Dietmar Hamann seized on the loose ball and spotted Murphy in space on the left of the area. Hamann's quick delivery caught Chelsea's defence unawares and gave Murphy the time and room to steady himself before drilling a low shot into the far corner.

But Fowler's goal is the one which the Anfield faithful will not forget for a long time.

Sheffield Derby ends in violence

SHEFFIELD WED	2
SHEFFIELD UTD	1

After extra time

Sheffield's first derby for seven seasons erupted into crowd violence last week before Wednesday went through thanks to Efan Ekoku's extra-time winner.

Play was delayed as police moved in to break up fighting which had started in the first half when Michael Brown scored a 33rd minute goal that hauled United level in what had been a dramatic tie at Hillsborough.

Rival fans in the 32,000 crowd continually clashed and one scuffle even spilled on to the pitch as referee Stephen Lodge unwittingly allowed play to continue.

Striker Brown stroked his controversial equaliser past goalkeeper Kevin Pressman from a raking cross by teenager Nick Montgomerie with Wednesday skipper Des Walker appealing in vain for offside.

It was no more than Neil Warnock's lively side deserved, for they had dominated the first half despite falling behind after 10 minutes to Efan Ekoku's first goal since joining Wednesday on loan from Grasshopper Zurich.

The former Wimbledon striker Ekoku's faint header was enough to touch Owen Morrison's curling free-kick beyond Simon Tracey, before Montgomerie and Paul Devlin had efforts against the woodwork as United retaliated.

Efan Ekoku: Wednesday's match winner.

Morrison also had a chance for Wednesday but Tracey bravely deflected his shot against the post. With tension running high, referee Lodge had to keep a tight grip on proceedings.

Second string Arsenal knocked out of Cup

ARSENAL	1
IPSWICH	2

Arsene Wenger paid the price for selecting a weakened team as a late James Scowcroft goal sent Arsenal crashing out of the Worthington Cup 2-1 at Highbury.

Igors Stepanovs had equalised Jamie Clapham's opener as Arsenal's young guns appeared to be holding their own against an Ipswich side lying fifth in the Premiership. But Scowcroft popped up a minute from time to secure Ipswich's passage to the fourth round.

What they lacked in experience, Arsene Wenger's young team seemed to make up for in confidence and cheek in matching Ipswich during the early exchanges.

But, as if stung by the audacity of Arsenal's selection policy, George Burley's side wasted little time stamping their authority on the fixture through Clapham's opener.

Fabian Wilnis sprinted onto Jim Magilton's pass to whip in an early cross flicked on by the head of David Johnson. Clapham's cool finish past debutant keeper Stuart Taylor was, like the attack itself, too easy.

Ipswich's confidence was undermined by an Arsenal equaliser in the final minute of the half as defender Stepanovs flicked home a corner from Nelson Vivas.

But Wenger's selection policy was finally undone in the closing stages as Scowcroft pounced for the winner for the visitors.

Ipswich's James Scowcroft celebrates after scoring the winner against Arsenal at Highbury.

Man United cruise past Watford

WATFORD	0
MAN UTD	3

A second-string United side inflicted a comfortable 3-0 defeat on Watford courtesy of an Ole Gunnar Solksjaer brace and a Dwight Yorke strike that handed Division One's top side a Premiership beating.

The strikers, the only recognisable first team players in the United line-up aside from captain Phil Neville, finished off Graham Taylor's side with the minimum of fuss.

The swarms of Hornets fans — who have yet to see their side lose in the league — were left hugely disappointed.

Not only did Sir Alex Ferguson ring nine changes from the starting line-up that tackled Southampton in the Premiership last week to render the Red Devils almost starless, but the home side themselves were virtually unrecognisable from the side that is vying for a top-flight place.

The First Division leaders barely had a sniff of goal, and even when they won a penalty in the dying minutes as Raimond Van der Gouw saw red for bringing down Heidar Helguson, Tommy Mooney leathered the ball high over the bar.

Strangely enough, the Hornets actually started the better of the two sides after kick-off was delayed 15 minutes due to crowd congestion, but neither Allan Nielsen or Mooney could make Watford's bright start tell.

Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solsjaer celebrates scoring as Watford's Robert Page looks on.

Penalty sinks Villa

ASTON VILLA	0
MAN CITY	1

Manchester City produced a classic smash-and-grab victory last week to keep them on track for their first silverware since 1976.

After a second half of total Aston Villa domination, referee David Elleray awarded Joe Royle's side a penalty a minute from time when David James produced one of his customary blunders by pushing Alfie Haaland in the area.

Kevin Horlock accepted the gift and duly knocked the ball past the hapless Villa goalkeeper. Villa then claimed an injury-time equaliser but substitute Darius Vassell was adjudged to have put the ball in with his hand and was booked. City had earlier made the first inroads and got in the first telling blow on 13 minutes.

Late in the match, Villa's unbeaten home record was almost kept in tact when Paul Merson had his thunderous shot saved by in form keeper Nicky Weaver.

WORLD

Simone threatens to quit Monaco

Italian striker Marco Simone says he is ready to quit defending French champions Monaco if the struggling side showed no hope of winning anything.

Simone launched his broadside recently after Monaco had been beaten 2-0 at home by Olympique Lyon and two days before they meet Scotland's Rangers in a vital Champions League game.

"Now the target is Rangers and this is a match which can change something," Simone said.

"I don't know if the team is mobilised for that but that is what is needed and if someone is not (motivated) I hope he will have the courage to stay at home because we don't need people who bring nothing to the team," he said.

Marco Simone: Unhappy at Monaco.

"We need positive things at this moment because everything is at stake in this match."

Monaco need to win their group D match at Rangers to qualify for the second phase.

"I'm very angry because I've had enough of people who think it's enough to be here with the sun and all the advantages. I did not come here on holiday or as a pensioner," the 31-year-old Italian said.

"When I signed it was because I wanted to play at the highest level and to keep winning things. I can quit, tomorrow even, if there is no possibility of winning."

Monaco are 11th in the French first division.

Owen gets brain scan

England and Liverpool striker Michael Owen said he had two brain scans to ensure he had not suffered a blood clot after being kicked in the head during a Premier League match.

"It was very scary," he said. Owen had 13 stitches in a head wound after being knocked unconscious in an accidental collision with Derby County defender Chris Riggott in a match last month.

"I was kept in hospital for observation and had a brain scan," Owen was quoted as saying.

"There was some bruising and fluid underneath my skull and there was concern it could be quite serious.

A second scan eased fears Owen might need surgery but dizzy spells delayed his comeback.

"Everything has turned out to be okay," Owen said. "I am back in full training now and will be fit for our UEFA Cup game this week."

Liverpool are away to Czech side Slovan Liberec in the second round of the UEFA Cup.

Michael Owen: Two brain scans revealed no damage after a kick to the head.

WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton 0 Aston Villa1, Charlton Athletic 2 Bradford City 0, Coventry City 1 Manchester United 2, Leeds United 4 Liverpool 3, Manchester City 0 Leicester City 1, Middlesbrough 0 Arsenal 1, Newcastle United 2 Ipswich Town 1, Southampton 3 Chelsea 2, Tottenham Hotspur 2 Sunderland 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	**12**	**8**	**3**	**1**	**33**	**9**	**27**
2. Arsenal	12	8	3	1	23	10	27
3. Leicester City	12	6	4	2	10	7	22
4. Liverpool	12	6	3	3	23	18	21
5. Aston Villa	11	5	4	2	14	9	19
6. Newcastle United	12	6	1	5	13	11	19
7. Ipswich Town	12	5	3	4	17	14	18
8. Leeds United	11	5	3	3	19	17	18
9. Charlton Athletic	12	5	3	4	19	18	18
10. Tottenham	12	5	2	5	17	18	17
11. Chelsea	12	4	4	4	24	17	16
12. Sunderland	12	4	4	4	10	13	16
13. Manchester City	12	4	2	6	14	20	14
14. Southampton	12	3	4	5	15	22	13
15. Everton	12	3	3	6	14	20	12
16. West Ham United	11	2	5	4	13	14	11
17. Coventry City	12	3	2	7	12	24	11
18. Middlesbrough	12	2	4	6	16	19	10
19. Bradford City	12	1	4	7	5	19	7
20. Derby County	11	0	5	6	16	28	5

LEADING SCORERS
10 - Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
9 - Mark Viduka (Leeds United), Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
8 - Teddy Sheringham (Manchester United)

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley 0 Wimbledon 1, Birmingham 1 Bolton 1, Blackburn 2 Stockport 1, Crewe 2 Wolverhampton 0, Crystal Palace 4 Sheffield Wednesday 1, Fulham 3 Huddersfield 0, Norwich 1 Tranmere 0, Nottingham Forest 3 Preston 1, Queens Park Rangers 1 Portsmouth 1, Sheffield United 1 Gillingham 2, Watford 4 Grimsby 0, West Bromwich 1 Burnley 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Watford	**15**	**12**	**3**	**0**	**34**	**11**	**39**
2. Fulham	15	12	2	1	37	10	38
3. Birmingham	16	9	4	3	25	13	31
4. Bolton	17	8	6	3	27	19	30
5. Burnley	16	8	5	3	17	17	29
6. Preston	16	8	4	4	19	14	28
7. West Bromwich	17	8	4	5	19	19	28
8. Blackburn	15	8	3	4	24	16	27
9. Nottinghamm Forest	15	8	3	4	22	17	27
10. Sheffield United	15	7	3	5	17	15	24
11. Portsmouth	17	5	7	5	19	20	22
12. Wimbledon	15	5	6	4	22	14	21
13. Barnsley	16	5	4	7	23	26	19
14. Gillingham	17	4	7	6	20	24	19
15. Crewe	17	5	3	9	12	20	18
16. Norwich	14	4	5	5	14	16	17
17. Grimsby	15	5	2	8	11	19	17
18. Wolverhampton	16	3	7	6	15	17	16
19. Tranmere	17	4	4	9	18	26	16
20. Queen's Park Rangers	16	2	7	7	16	25	13
21. Crystal Palace	16	3	3	10	17	25	12
22. Sheffield Wednesday	16	3	3	10	15	31	12
23. Stockport	17	2	5	10	18	32	11
24. Huddersfield	16	1	4	11	10	25	7

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Bournemouth 2 Peterborough 1,Bristol City 4 Notts County 0, Bury 1 Luton 1, Cambridge Utd 1 Brentford 1, Colchester 0 Northampton 2, Oldham 1 Swansea 1, Oxford Utd 0 Bristol Rovers 1, Port Vale 1 Millwall 1, Rotherham 1 Wigan 1, Swindon 1 Wycombe 1, Walsall 2 Reading 1, Wrexham 1 Stoke 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Walsall	**17**	**10**	**4**	**3**	**32**	**18**	**34**
2. Reading	17	10	2	5	37	21	32
3. Wigan	16	8	7	1	21	12	31
4. Rotherham	17	9	4	4	27	22	31
5. Millwall	15	9	3	3	32	14	30
6. Northampton	15	8	3	4	19	12	27
7. Stoke	15	7	5	3	24	17	26
8. Wycombe	17	7	5	5	18	14	26
9. Bristol City	16	6	6	4	23	14	24
10. Bury	17	7	3	7	16	21	24
11. Cambridge Utd	16	6	4	6	24	21	22
12. Brentford	15	5	7	3	17	22	22
13. Bristol Rovers	15	5	6	4	23	17	21
14. Wrexham	15	6	3	6	25	27	21
15. Peterborough	17	6	3	8	19	23	21
16. Notts County	17	6	3	8	18	27	21
17. Port Vale	16	4	5	7	17	22	17
18. Swansea	16	4	5	7	15	20	17
19. Colchester	17	4	5	8	15	21	17
20. Bournemouth	17	3	7	7	23	24	16
21. Oldham	16	4	4	8	18	28	16
22. Swindon	16	4	4	8	16	28	16
23. Luton	16	2	6	8	17	26	12
24. Oxford Utd	17	1	2	14	13	38	5

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Blackpool 0 Shrewsbury 1, Brighton 4 Carlisle 1, Cardiff 4 York 0, Halifax 3 Exeter 1, Hull 2 Darlington 0, Kidderminster 1 Cheltenham 0, Leyton Orient 2 Mansfield 1, Lincoln City 1 Chesterfield 1, Rochdale 0 Barnet 0, Scunthorpe 3 Hartlepool 0, Southend 3 Macclesfield 1, Torquay 1 Plymouth 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee 1 Hibernian 2, Kilmarnock 0 Celtic 1, Hearts 3 Aberdeen 0, Motherwell 2 Dundee United 1, Rangers 7 St Mirren 1, St Johnstone 0 Dunfermline Athletic 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	**14**	**12**	**2**	**0**	**32**	**12**	**38**
2. Hibernian	14	11	2	1	29	8	35
3. Kilmarnock	14	8	2	4	19	13	26
4. Rangers	13	8	1	4	29	19	25
5. Hearts	14	5	4	5	22	20	19
6. St Johnstone	14	4	5	5	14	20	17
7. Dundee	14	4	4	6	16	15	16
8. Dunfermline	14	4	4	6	11	17	16
9. Motherwell	14	4	3	7	16	20	15
10. Aberdeen	13	2	6	5	11	18	12
11. St Mirren	14	3	1	10	10	25	10
12. Dundee United	14	0	2	12	8	30	2

LEADING SCORERS
13 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
8 - Billy Dodds (Rangers)
7 - Mixu Paatelainen (Hibernian), Kenny Miller (Rangers)
6 - Juan Sara (Dundee), Robbie Winters (Aberdeen), Chris Sutton (Celtic), Stuart Elliott (Motherwell)

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Alloa Athletic 2 Airdrieonians 0, Ayr United 1 Livingston 1, Clyde 1 Inverness Caly.Th 1, Raith Rovers 0 Falkirk 2, Ross County 3 Morton 1.

P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1. Falkirk	13	10	1	2	29	17	31
2. Livingston	13	8	3	2	29	14	27
3. Ayr	13	6	5	2	24	18	23
4. Raith	13	5	3	5	20	15	18
5. Clyde	13	4	5	4	20	19	17
6. Inverness CT	13	4	3	6	24	23	15
7. Ross County	13	4	3	6	13	22	15
8. Alloa	13	3	3	7	13	27	12
9. Morton	13	3	2	8	10	23	11
10. Airdrie	13	2	4	7	20	24	10

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Clydebank 0 Berwick Rangers 1, Forfar Athletic 0 Arbroath 1, Partick Thistle 2 Queen's Park 1, Stirling Albion 2 Stenhousemuir Stranraer 3, 3 Queen of the South 2.

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Albion Rovers 1 Hamilton Academical 1, Cowdenbeath 1 East Fife 0, East Stirlingshire 1 Dumbarton 1, Montrose 1 Brechin City 1, Peterhead 1 Elgin City 0.

ITALIAN SERIE A

Bari 0 Parma 1, Brescia 2 AS Roma 4, AC Milan 3 Atalanta 3, Napoli 1 Vicenza 2, Reggina 0 Juventus 2, Udinese 2 Lecce 0, Verona 2 Inter Milan 2, Fiorentina 3 Perugia 4, Lazio 2 Bologna 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Udinese	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**12**	**4**	**13**
2. AS Roma	5	4	0	1	13	5	12
3. Atalanta Bergamo	5	3	2	0	12	6	11
4. Juventus	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
5. Lazio	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
6. Bologna	5	3	0	2	9	6	9
7. Parma	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
8. Inter Milan	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
9. Perugia	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
10. Vicenza	5	2	0	3	5	1	6
11. Fiorentina	5	1	3	1	10	10	6
12. Verona	5	1	3	1	6	7	6
13. AC Milan	5	1	2	2	8	9	5
14. Lecce	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
15. Reggina	5	1	0	4	3	8	3
16. Brescia	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
17. Bari	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
18. Napoli	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

LEADING SCORERS
6 - Gabriel Batistuta (AS Roma)
4 - Fausto Rossini (Atalanta Bergamo), Leandro (Fiorentina), Simone Inzaghi (Lazio), Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan), Roberto Carlos Sosa (Udinese)
3 - Cristiano Doni (Atalanta Bergamo), Dario Hubner (Brescia), Patrick Mboma (Parma), Zisis Vryzas (Perugia), Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Alaves 4 Oviedo 0, Osasuna 1 Athletic Bilbao 1, Rayo Vallecano 2 Real Valladolid 1, Real Sociedad 0 Real Mallorca 1, Real Zaragoza 2 Racing Santander 0, Celta Vigo 1 Malaga 0, Las Palmas 0 Barcelona 1, Numancia 3 Real Madrid 1, Espanyol 1 Valencia 0, Villarreal 3 Deportivo Coruna 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Valencia	**9**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**18**	**6**	**19**
2. Alaves	9	5	2	2	14	5	17
3. Deportivo Coruna	9	5	2	2	17	9	17
4. Barcelona	9	5	1	3	16	10	16
5. Celta Vigo	9	5	1	3	12	10	16
6. Rayo Vallecano	9	4	3	2	17	10	15
7. Real Madrid	9	4	2	3	17	13	14
8. Real Mallorca	9	4	2	3	10	10	14
9. Villarreal	9	3	3	3	9	13	12
10. Espanyol	9	3	2	4	8	8	11
11. Malaga	9	3	2	4	13	14	11
12. Real Oviedo	9	3	2	4	11	13	11
13. Numancia	9	3	2	4	11	14	11
14. Las Palmas	9	3	2	4	11	18	11
15. Real Zaragoza	9	2	4	3	9	9	10
16. Valladolid	9	1	6	2	8	8	9
17. Athletic Bilbao	9	2	3	4	8	14	9
18. Racing Santander	9	2	2	5	12	17	8
19. Real Sociedad	9	2	2	5	9	23	8
20. Osasuna	9	1	4	4	8	14	7

LEADING SCORERS
7 - Javi Moreno (Alaves)
6 - Rivaldo (Barcelona), Juan Sanchez (Valencia)
5 - Raul (Real Madrid), Dely Valdes (Malaga), Guti (Real Madrid)

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

SpVgg Unterhaching 0 Cologn 0, VfL Wolfsburg 1 Energie Cottbus 1, Kaiserslautern 3 Schalke 04 2, VfB Stuttgart 1 Hansa Rostock 0, Hertha Berlin 4 Werder Bremen 1, Hamburg SV 5 SC Freiburg 0, VfL Bochum 1 TSV 1860 Munich 1, Bayern Munich 6 Borussia Dortmund 2, Bayer Leverkusen 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hertha Berlin	**11**	**8**	**0**	**3**	**28**	**15**	**24**
2. Bayern Munich	11	7	1	3	26	12	22
3. Kaiserslautern	11	6	2	3	16	11	20
4. Bayer Leverkusen	11	5	4	2	14	11	19
5. Schalke 04	11	5	3	3	22	11	18
6. Hamburg SV	11	5	3	3	27	19	18
7. VfL Wolfsburg	11	4	4	3	25	16	16
8. Borussia Dortmund	11	5	1	5	17	22	16
9. Eintracht Frankfurt	11	4	2	5	14	15	14
10. Hansa Rostock	11	4	2	5	7	15	14
11. VfB Stuttgart	11	3	4	4	17	20	13
12. TSV 1860 Munich	11	3	4	4	13	17	13
13. SC Freiburg	11	3	3	5	13	16	12
14. Cologne	11	3	3	5	15	21	12
15. Energie Cottbus	11	3	2	6	12	21	11
16. VfL Bochum	11	3	2	6	9	20	11
17. Werder Bremen	11	2	4	5	14	19	10
18. SpVgg Unterhaching	11	2	4	5	11	19	10

LEADING SCORERS
8 - Sergej Barbarez (Hamburg SV)
7 - Paul Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich), Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04) Heiko Herrlich (Borussia Dortmund)
6 - Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Emile Mpenza (Schalke 04) Jonathan Akpoborie (VfL Wolfsburg)
5 - Michael Preetz (Hertha Berlin), Stefan Beinlich (Hertha Berlin), Mehmet Scholl (Bayern Munich), Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Willem II Tilburg 0 Ajax Amsterdam 1, Feyenoord 4 Roda JC Kerkrade 2, Groningen 1 AZ Alkmaar 2, RBC Roosendaal 3 Fortuna Sittard 1, Graafschap Doetinchem 1 Vitesse Arnhem 2, Utrecht 1 Sparta Rotterdam 1, NAC Breda 2 NEC Nijmegen 2, Twente Enschede 0 PSV Eindhoven 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Feyenoord	**9**	**8**	**1**	**0**	**26**	**9**	**25**
2. Vitesse Arnhem	11	8	1	2	24	15	25
3. PSV Eindhoven	10	6	3	1	16	7	21
4. NEC Nijmegen	11	4	7	0	20	12	19
5. Ajax Amsterdam	11	5	3	3	22	15	18
6. RKC Waalwijk	11	5	3	3	14	10	18
7. NAC Breda	10	5	2	3	19	12	17
8. Roda JC Kerkrade	10	4	3	3	20	18	15
9. AZ Alkmaar	10	5	0	5	20	19	15
10. Heerenveen	9	3	4	2	11	11	13
11. Willem II Tilburg	10	3	4	3	16	15	13
12. Twente Enschede	11	3	4	4	16	21	13
13. Utrecht	11	3	3	5	18	21	12
14. Groningen	12	3	2	7	16	23	11
15. Graafschap Doetinchem	12	3	1	8	17	23	10
16. Sparta Rotterdam	11	2	3	6	16	24	9
17. RBC Roosendaal	11	2	0	9	18	32	6
18. Fortuna Sittard	10	0	2	8	5	26	2

LEADING SCORERS
11 - Ali Elkhattabi (Sparta Rotterdam)
10 - Gorgi Hristov (NEC Nijmegen)
9 - Robin Nelisse (AZ Alkmaar)

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT

AJ Auxerre 1 Paris St Germain 0, Olympique Marseille 0 Stade Rennes 1, St Etienne 4 Troyes 1, Nantes 2 Metz 0, RC Lens 4 Bastia 0, Toulouse 0 Strasbourg 0, Girondins Bordeaux 1 Lille 0, En Avant Guingamp 0 Sedan 3, Monaco 0 Olympique Lyon 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sedan	**14**	**7**	**4**	**3**	**21**	**14**	**25**
2. Paris St Germain	14	7	3	4	27	19	24
3. Girondins Bordeaux	14	6	5	3	20	14	23
4. Lille	14	6	4	4	15	10	22
5. Nantes	14	6	3	5	21	19	21
6. En Avant Guingamp	14	6	3	5	17	18	21
7. Bastia	14	6	3	5	15	16	21
8. RC Lens	14	5	5	4	17	14	20
9. Troyes	14	5	5	4	19	19	20
10. Olympique Lyon	13	4	7	2	16	12	19
11. Monaco	14	5	4	5	19	18	19
12. Stade Rennes	14	5	3	6	15	13	18
13. AJ Auxerre	14	5	3	6	14	16	18
14. Metz	14	5	3	6	12	16	18
15. St Etienne	14	4	5	5	23	23	17
16. Olympique Marseille	14	4	3	7	13	17	15
17. Strasbourg	14	3	3	8	12	30	12
18. Toulouse	13	1	4	8	10	18	7

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

(Roman numerals denote division):
Meldert (IV) 2 Denderhouten (III) 1, Eendracht Aalst 0 Lommel (II) 2, Antwerp 1 Schoten (III) 0, Haasdonk (IV) 1 Ghent 3 (after extra time), Cercle Bruges (II) 1 Kortrijk (III) 0 (after extra time), FC Liege (II) 1 Ingelmunster (II) 2, La Louviere 2 Club Bruges 1, Mechelen 1 Beveren 3, Genk 2 Excelsior Mouscron 1, Sint-Truiden Charleroi 0, Anderlecht 2 Harelbeke 1, Lokeren 2 Mons (II) 1, Standard Liege 3 Turnhout (II) 2, Germinal Beerschot 1 Hoogstraten (III) 0, Westerlo 1 Denderleeuw (II) 0, Lierse 0 Verbroedering Geel (II) 2.

PORTUGUESE PREMIER LEAGUE

Pacos Ferreira 4 Braga 2, Campomaiorense 0 Belenenses 1, Alverca 0 Beira Mar 1, Salgueiros 2 Aves 1, Maritimo 3 Benfica 0, Farense 2 Boavista 2, Gil Vicente 2 Porto 2, Sporting 4 Uniao Leiria 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	**10**	**8**	**1**	**1**	**24**	**6**	**25**
2. Sporting	10	7	1	2	21	9	22
3. Salgueiros	10	7	0	3	15	11	21
4. Braga	10	6	2	2	18	13	20
5. Boavista	10	5	4	1	18	9	19
6. Belenenses	10	5	4	1	13	7	19
7. Pacos Ferreira	10	5	2	3	18	10	17
8. Maritimo	10	5	1	4	11	8	16
9. Benfica	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
10. Farense	10	4	3	3	13	12	15
11. Uniao Leiria	10	2	5	3	9	17	11
12. Alverca	10	2	3	5	11	18	9
13. Vitoria Guimaraes	9	2	3	4	12	15	9
14. Aves	10	2	2	6	14	21	8
15. Beira Mar	10	1	3	6	10	19	6
16. Campomaiorense	10	0	5	5	6	19	5
17. Estrela Amadora	9	1	1	7	7	15	4
18. Gil Vicente	10	0	3	7	5	17	3

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Universitatea Craiova 1 FCM Bacau 0, Rapid Bucharest 2 Otelul Galati 1, Brasov 2 Rocar Bucharest 0, Gloria Bistrita 3 Dinamo Bucharest 1, Foresta Falticeni 3 Petrolul Ploiesti 1, Astra Ploiesti 2 Arges Pitesti 0, National Bucharest 1 Gaz Metan 0, Steaua Bucharest 3 Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Steaua Bucharest	**12**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**24**	**16**	**24**
2. Universitatea Craiova	12	7	3	2	15	10	24
3. Brasov	12	6	3	3	8	5	21
4. Petrolul Ploiesti	12	6	2	4	18	14	20
5. Dinamo Bucharest	12	5	3	4	21	19	18
6. Arges Pitesti	12	5	3	4	15	14	18
7. Rapid Bucharest	12	4	5	3	13	11	17
8. Astra Ploiesti	12	5	2	5	13	12	17
9. Foresta Falticeni	12	4	5	3	17	17	17
10. Otelul Galati	12	4	3	5	17	17	15
11. Gloria Bistrita	12	4	3	5	12	15	15
12. National Bucharest	12	4	2	6	17	18	14
13. Rocar Bucharest	12	4	2	6	18	21	14
14. FCM Bacau	12	3	4	5	16	18	13
15. Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt	12	2	4	6	12	21	10
16. Gaz Metan Medias	12	1	3	8	7	13	6

CROATIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Zagreb 2 Marsonia , Sibenik 0 Dinamo 0, Cibalia 1 Varteks 1, Slaven Belupo 2 Hajduk 0, Rijeka 2 Hrv. Dragovoljac 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Osijek	**14**	**10**	**3**	**1**	**36**	**19**	**33**
2. Dinamo	14	8	5	1	30	11	29
3. Hajduk	14	7	3	4	20	10	24
4. Zagreb	14	7	3	4	32	30	24
5. Sibenik	14	6	3	5	14	14	21
6. Slaven Belupo	14	5	4	5	20	18	19
7. Cakovec	14	4	5	5	13	16	17
8. Varteks	14	4	5	5	22	27	17
9. Rijeka	14	3	4	7	10	16	13
10. Hrv.Dragovoljac	14	3	3	8	16	25	12
11. Cibalia	14	1	8	5	14	24	11
12. Marsonia	14	2	2	10	16	33	8

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

PAOK Salonika 4 OFI Crete 1, Kalamata 2 Ethnikos Asteras 2, PAS Ioannina 3 Athinaikos 1, Panathinaikos 2 Paniliakos 0, Xanthi 1 Aris Salonika 0, Panionios 1 Iraklis 1, Olympiakos 4 AEK Athens 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**19**	**5**	**13**
2. Panathinaikos	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
3. Aris Salonika	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
4. AEK Athens	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
5. Xanthi	5	2	3	0	5	3	9
6. PAOK Salonika	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
7. Iraklis	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
8. Ethnikos Asteras	5	2	2	1	8	11	8
9. PAS Ioannina	5	1	1	3	7	9	4
10. Panachaiki	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
11. Ionikos	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
12. Panionios	5	0	4	1	3	5	4
13. Kalamata	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
14. Athinaikos	5	1	0	4	5	12	3
15. OFI Crete	5	0	2	3	4	9	2
16. Paniliakos	5	0	2	3	1	8	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SOCCER	TOTAL							HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
SYDNEY UNITED	4	3	0	1	6	6	9	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	4
CARLTON SC	4	2	2	0	9	4	8	2	1	1	0	6	2	2	1	1	0	3	2
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	4	2	2	0	6	1	8	2	2	0	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	1	1
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	4	2	2	0	6	4	8	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	4	3
NORTHERN SPIRIT	4	2	1	1	7	4	7	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	1	0	1	3	2
MARCONI STALLIONS	4	2	1	1	4	2	7	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	1
FOOTBALL KINGZ	4	2	0	2	9	8	6	2	2	0	0	7	2	2	0	0	2	2	6
PARRAMATTA POWER	4	2	0	2	6	5	6	2	1	0	1	3	3	2	1	0	1	3	2
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	4	2	0	2	5	7	6	2	1	0	1	3	3	2	1	0	1	2	4
SOUTH MELBOURNE	4	1	2	1	5	4	5	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	3
PERTH GLORY	4	1	2	1	4	4	5	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	3
CANBERRA COSMOS	4	1	1	2	6	5	4	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	0	1	1	2	3
BRISBANE STRIKERS	4	1	1	2	6	7	4	2	0	1	1	3	4	2	1	0	1	3	3
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	4	1	0	3	5	11	3	3	1	0	2	5	8	1	0	0	1	0	3
EASTERN PRIDE	4	0	1	3	5	9	1	2	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	2	4	6
NEWCASTLE UNITED	4	0	1	3	2	10	1	2	0	0	2	0	4	2	0	1	1	2	6

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2
(Orlic 53, Lee 59)

Venue: Marathon Stadium. **Crowd:** 8,275. **Referee:** C.Djomis.
Cautions: Roberts (NU) 50, Surjan (NU) 57, Clark (PP) 69, Swancott (NU) 76, McManus (NU) 85, Berry (PP) 88.
Teams: NEWCASTLE: Catlin (Swancott 62), Roberts, Zoricich, McManus, Dodd, Wilson (McBreen 69), Buonavoglia, Tsekenis (Trpcevski 75), Wieczorek, Surjan, Masi.
PARRAMATTA: Pogliacomi, Barrett, Eirich, Orlic, Tobin, Miller (Thorp 88), Griffiths, Blagonevic, Santalab (Bennett 75), Clark (Berry 82), Lee.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 4
(Burgess 23, 30 & 35, Mendez 65pen)
FOOTBALL KINGZ 2
(Vicelich 41, Ngata 76pen)

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 4,294. **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: Cunico (NS) 49, Stevens (AK) 57.
Teams: NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Cunico, Langdon, Bingley, Slater, Enes (Biloktapic 59), Moreira (Pennich 75), Mendez, T.Cranney, Burgess, Arnold (Thomas 46).
FOOTBALL KINGZ: Cuello, Lines, Osman (Davis 46), Perry (Campbell 67), Jackson, Urlovic, Ngata, Vicelich, Jones, Van Steeden, Stevens (Ibrahim 58).

LEADING GOALSCORERS
After Round Four

THOMPSON Archie	(Carlton SC)	5
STEVENS Tim	(Football Kingz)	4
ARAMBASIC Zlatko	(Sydney United)	3
AWARITEFE Francis	(Sydney United)	3
BURGESS Ben	(Northern Spirit)	3
HASSELL Bradley	(Adelaide City)	3
OWENS Greg	(Sydney Olympic)	3

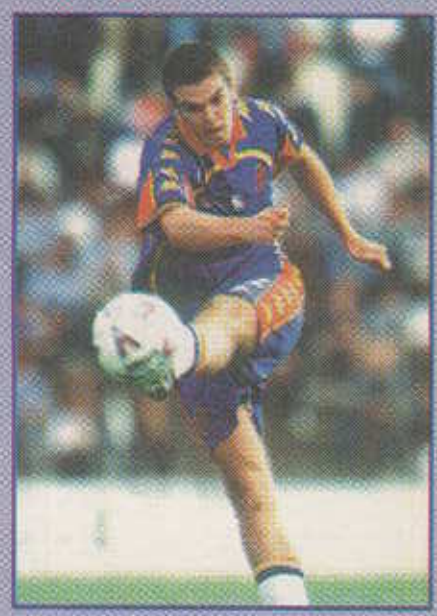
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 4
(Turnbridge 52 & 88, Hassell 54 & 86)
EASTERN PRIDE 3
(Bell 3, Roach 36, Deak 89)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,831. **Referee:** P. Green.
Cautions: Roach (EP) 37, 51, Jevdievic (EP) 72, MacNichol (EP) 77, Day (ACF) 80, Kim (EP) 91.
Red Cards: Roach (EP) 51.
Teams: ADELAIDE: Cagali, Lagati, Kovacevic, Brain, Veart, Hassell, Turnbridge, Rees (Bucciarelli 79), Pantelis, Karlovic, Day (Budin 83).
EASTERN PRIDE: Jevdievic, Fak, Gotis, Kim, MacNichol, Bell, Roach, Hutchinson, Sekluovski, (Puca 64), Cascar, (Deak 81), Wearne.

MARCONI STALLIONS 1
(Renaud 82)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
(Trimboli 17)

Venue: Marconi Stadium. **Crowd:** 4,423. **Referee:** E. Lennie.
Cautions: Susa (SM) 14, Durakovic (SM) 41, Kisnorbo (SM) 56, Renaud (MS) 75, Lozanovski (SM) 88.
Teams: MARCONI: Aceski, C.Gibson, Costanzo, Longo, McDonald, Radulovic (Maisano), Bove, Farah, Brownlie (Tome 64), J.Gibson (Care 74), Renaud.
STH MELBOURNE: M.Petkovic, De Amicis, Durakovic, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveny (Anastasiadis 79), Trimboli (Lozanovski 70), Boutsianis, Vlahos, Susa, Kisnorbo.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Northern Spirit striker BEN BURGESS: Scored a superb hat trick against the Football Kingz in just 12 minutes.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
(Foster 45, Dwyer 86)
CANBERRA COSMOS 2
(Hagger 89, Angelucci 90)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,546. **Referee:** J. Blaney.
Cautions: Castro (CC) 19, Srhoj (BS) 68.
Red Cards: Nil.
Teams: BRISBANE: Duke, Steffanuto, McKain, Bell, Grierson, Foster, Srhoj, McLaren, North, Harris (Baldwin 33, Dwyer 68), Meredith.
CANBERRA: Smith, Poppvich, Ravanello (Milin 45m), Purdue, Hagger, Castro, Angelucci, Arranz, Phillips (Rakic 69), Hooker, Scott (Imaya 69m).

PERTH GLORY 1
(Despotovski 54pen)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
(Owens 46)

Venue: Perth Oval. **Crowd:** 12,894. **Referee:** C. Zetter.
Cautions: Marusic (SO) 31, Wilson (SO) 40, Wehrman (PG) 41, Juric (SO) 47, Kohler (SO) 54, Junior (PG) 78.
Teams: PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Harnwell, Naven, Miller, Maloney, Despotovski, Wehrman, Junior, Mori (Buljan 81), Faria (Milicevic 62), Pryce.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Bolton, Sinozic, Wilson, Kohler, Baillie, Juric, Marusic, Halpin, Goutzioulis (Sarr 66), Owens (Moric 78), Carle.

CARLTON SC 4
(Thompson 25 & 43, Motsiopoulos 55, Colosimo 85)
SYDNEY UNITED 0

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 1,652. **Referee:** P. Mur.
Cautions: Burt (SU) 19, Awaritefe (SU) 30, Packer (CSC) 39, Savoca (SU) 42.
Red Cards: Nil.
Teams: CARLTON: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Horvat, Deans (Douglas 94), Terminello, Colosimo, Lapsansky, Packer (Atkinson 72), Middleby, Motsiopoulos, Thompson (Markovski 77).
SYDNEY UNITED: Hughes, Burt (Foxe 80), Plesa, Savoca, Talevski, Pondeljak, Arrate, Genc, Menapi (Silic 46), Arambasic (Palapanis 61), Awaritefe.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
(Da Costa 78)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
(Horsley 40, Reid 41)

Venue: Knights Stadium. **Crowd:** 4,800. **Referee:** G Connolly.
Cautions: Vargas (MK) 10, Vukadin (MK) 23, Minello (WW) 74.
Teams: MELBOURNE: Acevski, R. Vargas, Nastevski, Porter, Zelic (Kovacic 67), Magdic, Kiratzoglou, A. Vargas, Zold (Sulemani 60), Da Costa.
WOLLONGONG: Beltrame, Souris, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Petrovski (Stanton), Young, Chipperfield, Huxley, Blake, Mennillo.

ROUND FIVE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10
Football Kingz vs Adelaide City
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11
Wollongong vs Brisbane Strikers
Northern Spirit vs Newcastle United
Parramatta Power vs Canberra Cosmos
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12
Sydney United vs Marconi Stallions
Eastern Pride vs Perth Glory
South Melbourne vs Melbourne Knights
Sydney Olympic vs Carlton SC